

13th March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families well; a Friday update for you, as always. As we move further into the spring term, it has been another purposeful and productive period at Connaught School for Girls. Across the school, we continue to see students demonstrating a strong commitment to their learning, engaging fully in the wider life of the school and rising to the high expectations we set together. It is always a pleasure to see our values of **excellence, resilience and inclusion** lived out each day. Whether through academic endeavour in the classroom, perseverance in the face of challenge, or the kindness and respect students show towards one another and the wider community.

This edition of the newsletter reflects the breadth of experiences that shape our students' journeys. From important messages around attendance, to the many opportunities for personal development and enrichment that sit alongside academic study, we remain firmly focused on ensuring that every child feels supported, challenged and inspired. Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership in reinforcing these values at home and for the vital role you play in helping us sustain a culture where all young people can flourish.

### **School closure on the 19th and 20th March (Thursday and Friday next week)**

Next week marks the conclusion of the holy month of Ramadan. To all members of our school community and local neighbourhood who will be celebrating Eid, we extend our warmest wishes for a peaceful and blessed Eid. As previously communicated, the school will be closed to students on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th March, and these will be the only days authorised for religious observance. It is therefore important that students attend punctually and maintain full attendance on all other days during the week.

Finally, the importance of kindness towards one another is something I hold very deeply as Headteacher, and it lies at the very heart of the culture we continue to build together at Connaught. I hope that this commitment to compassion and mutual respect is reflected not only within our classrooms and corridors, but also in the way our students conduct themselves as they travel to and from school. I would encourage parents and carers to speak with their children about being mindful of their behaviour in the community — showing courtesy, tolerance and respect to our neighbours, who are, of course, part of the wider community that supports and surrounds our school.

Parent/Carer survey March 2026

We place great importance on listening carefully to the views of our parents and carers, and we would very much welcome your feedback about your experience of Connaught School for Girls. Your insights are invaluable in helping us to recognise what we are doing well and, just as importantly, to identify the areas where we can continue to grow and improve. By sharing your perspectives, you play a direct role in shaping the priorities we set as a school, from the quality of teaching and pastoral support, to communication, enrichment opportunities and the overall well-being of our students.

Separately, we will also be gathering the views of students through a school-based survey, enabling us to triangulate feedback from both students and parents. This helps us to build a richer, more balanced understanding of the school experience and ensures that any improvements we make are informed by the perspectives of the whole community, allowing us to continue strengthening the quality of provision and the overall environment in which our students learn and grow.

We know that strong schools are built on strong partnerships, and meaningful engagement with parents is a vital part of that journey. When families take the time to reflect on their child's experience and provide thoughtful feedback, it enables us to make informed, evidence-based decisions that will benefit not only your own child but the wider school community. We are therefore keen to hear from as many parents and carers as possible.

Please do take a few minutes to complete our parent survey by **Friday 17th April**. The survey should take no longer than **10–15 minutes to complete**. Thank you in advance for taking the time to share your views with us. Your voice genuinely matters, and your feedback will help us continue to build a school where every student can thrive.

Use this link [HERE](https://forms.gle/k5q9S515UGSpsbJe6) or copy and paste this link to your browser:  
<https://forms.gle/k5q9S515UGSpsbJe6>

## **Slime**

We've noticed that some students have been bringing slime into school, and while we understand slime can be fun to play with at home, we're asking that students do not bring slime to school as it can be messy (sticking to uniforms, bags, desks and floors, causing damage that's difficult to clean), distracting (taking attention away from learning during lessons), and disruptive (when it gets onto other students' belongings or school property). Please help us by checking your child's bag before school to make sure they haven't packed slime, reminding them that slime should stay at home for play time after school, and having a conversation with them about why it's important to follow school rules. If slime is brought into school, staff will confiscate it and it can be collected at the end of the day from the school office. Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a focused learning environment for all our students.

## **Assembly next week**

Next week's assembly will be about International Day of Racism (Saturday 21st March)

**Year 9 Parents' Evening - 25th March 4.30 - 7.00pm**

Please remember to book appointments via the ARBOR app to see your daughter's subject teachers.

If you have any difficulties accessing the ARBOR app or booking appointments please telephone the school office or email: [school@connaught.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:school@connaught.waltham.sch.uk).

## Attendance Matters

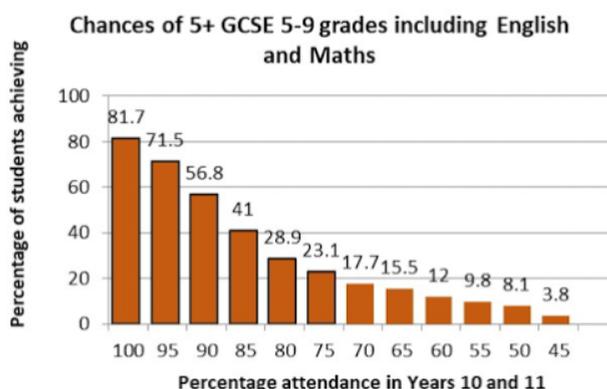
**Year 11 Attendance** - as for all students it is vital that your daughter attends every day. As we move towards the GCSE examination period we would expect Year 11 attendance to be the highest in the school as the link between attendance and GCSE success is clear:

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.

We have an ambitious attendance target, this target reflects the high expectations and aspirations we hold for every student. Evidence shows that even small improvements in attendance can have a meaningful impact on academic achievement, wellbeing and students' confidence in their learning. Being in school consistently helps students stay connected to their learning, their teachers and their peers. Thank you for your continued support in helping ensure students attend school every day and arrive on time, unless they are genuinely unwell.

Congratulations 7S!

Evidence from a Department for Education study shows a strong correlation between school attendance and GCSE success. The chart below illustrates this:



## Uniform

Uniform standards are generally high however, some students require reminders and we would ask that you reinforce these messages, which are being re-shared in form time and assemblies next week:

### Uniform Reminders:



- **Blazers** are part of your uniform and must be worn (not carried/in bags/left on coat pegs)

If you are not wearing your blazer you will be given a detention after school.  
Jumpers are optional and must not be worn unless under a blazer

- **Socks** - black or navy (detention)
- No bracelets, necklaces, rings, hoop ear/nose rings - confiscated and detention, returned after a week
- Skirts - between knee and ankle (**skirts must not be rolled up**)
- **Shoes** - no trainers. **This includes school visits** (unless authorised by SLT e.g. Geography fieldwork visits). Students wearing non school shoes will be in isolation at break/lunch time.

### Year 9 Guided Choices Fair

This week, we hosted our first ever Guided Choices Fair for year 9 students making their Key Stage 4 option choices for next academic year. The event was a fantastic opportunity for students to explore their subject choices and gather the information they need to make informed decisions about their future pathways.

The atmosphere was buzzing as students moved between subject areas, engaging with teachers and discovering what each course has to offer. Department leaders did a brilliant job of bringing their subjects to life. Students had the chance to:

- Speak directly with subject teachers about course content and what to expect at GCSE level
- Explore interactive displays
- View examples of coursework and projects from current students
- Ask questions about assessment, workload, content and skills development



Our careers and post-16 leads were also on hand throughout the event to discuss how different subject combinations can support future pathways. Many students took the opportunity to explore

how their choices align with their aspirations and keep doors open for post-16 study and career options.

It was wonderful to see students taking ownership of their learning journey, asking thoughtful questions, and considering subjects they may not have previously thought about.

### *What Happens Next?*

A guided choices form will be emailed to all year 9 parents on Monday 16th March 2026 - please check your inbox for this. The deadline for returning completed forms is Friday 17th April 2026.

As students finalise their decisions, we encourage them to:

- Reflect on the conversations they had during the fair
- Review the curriculum booklet and their guided choices booklet
- Choose subjects they enjoy and feel confident in
- Consider a balanced curriculum that keeps future pathways open
- Speak to subject teachers again if they need any further clarification



Individual guidance meetings are available for any students and their parents/ carers who need extra support with their decision-making. Please contact Ms Binz to arrange an appointment at year 9 parents' evening on Wednesday 25th March 2026.

A huge thank you also to our staff who prepared engaging displays, answered countless questions, and inspired students to think about their future learning.

We're excited to see the choices our Year 9 students make and look forward to supporting them as they begin their GCSE journey in September.

If you have any questions or concerns about the options process, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Ms Binz.