

6th February 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

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

As we continue through the spring term, it has been another busy and productive period at Connaught School for Girls. This edition of the newsletter shares a number of highlights from across the school, celebrating the achievements of our students, the many enrichment opportunities taking place, and the strong culture of learning that continues to define our community. Alongside these successes, I have also included a number of important updates and reflections for families. As always, I am grateful for your continued support and partnership in ensuring that our students flourish both academically and personally.

School Wars update

Many of you will have seen or heard about social media posts circulating last week referring to so-called “*School Wars*” across a number of London boroughs, including Waltham Forest. As you know, I wrote to families about this at the time to ensure that parents and carers were aware of the situation.

I am very pleased to report that this proved to be exactly what we believed it would be: online noise with no substance behind it. Our students showed maturity, good judgement and common sense in ignoring it completely. There were no issues locally, and the atmosphere at the end of the school day remained calm and positive.

As always, the school worked closely with fellow Headteachers across Waltham Forest and maintained regular communication with our local partners to ensure that everything remained settled. This kind of collaboration takes place quietly behind the scenes every day to ensure that our community remains safe and well supported. Should there ever be a genuine cause for concern, I will always communicate directly with families.

We are fortunate to have strong relationships across our local schools, and many of our students share friendships that go back to their primary school years. That sense of community is something we value greatly. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It is reassuring to see our young people rise above the distractions of social media and focus on what truly matters.

Vaccinations

You will have likely seen in the [media](#) that there has been a rise in measles cases in London, with outbreaks in neighbouring boroughs. As you know, measles is highly infectious and can spread quickly in school settings. Vaccination remains the best protection. The [MMRV](#) (measles, mumps, rubella and varicella) vaccine is safe and highly effective, and children

require two doses for full protection. Vaccinations are available free of charge via your GP practice, and we strongly encourage families to check their child's vaccination status.

Early symptoms of measles include a high fever, runny or blocked nose, red or watery eyes and a cough. A rash usually appears a few days later, starting on the face and spreading to the body, and small white spots may appear inside the mouth. If you suspect measles, please keep your child at home, contact your GP or NHS 111 before attending in person, and inform the school if measles is suspected or confirmed. Thank you for helping us to protect our whole community.

Middle East widening conflict

In recent days, many of us will have been following with concern the escalating conflict in the Middle East involving Iran and other countries in the region. Reports indicate that the violence has intensified, with airstrikes, missile attacks and tragic loss of life, alongside growing fears of wider instability.

At Connaught, we are very aware that events such as these are not simply distant headlines for many in our community. A number of our students, families and colleagues have close ties to the region and may have relatives and loved ones living in areas directly affected by the conflict. Our thoughts are with all those who may be experiencing anxiety, uncertainty or distress as a result of these events. As a school community we stand for compassion, understanding and, above all, peace. We hope for a swift de-escalation of the violence and a peaceful resolution that brings safety and stability to those caught up in the crisis.

If your family has been impacted by these events, or if your daughter would benefit from additional pastoral support, please do contact the school or encourage her to speak with her form tutor. We are a community that stands together, and we are here to support one another.

Assembly next week

Next week we will be on the international day of Maths!

Attendance Matters

Regular attendance builds routine, resilience, confidence and academic success. Every lesson counts, and even small improvements across the school make a significant difference. This half term we are placing a renewed and positive focus on excellent attendance.

Thank you for your continued partnership in ensuring your child attends every day unless genuinely unwell. Together, we can continue to strengthen our culture of commitment and ambition.

Congratulations to **Year 7** who continue to have the highest overall attendance to date.



Bedrock Leaderboard

The following students have gained the most points this week and are in the top 10!
Postcards will be coming your way.

1. Romeesa Asif 8C → 88 points,
2. Eliza Chowdhury 7C → 60 points,
3. Ozelle Villiers 8W → 51,
4. Mysha Mohungoo 9F → 46,
5. Umme Taisir 8S → 45 points,
6. Sarah Zahoor 7C → 44 points,
7. Hiba Abbas 7C → 43 points,
8. Hafsa Akbar 7C → 43 points,
9. Khadija Noori 9S → 42 points,
10. Tasneem Patel 8F → 40 points

Reading Matters

Well done 7F on your first win of the year! Keep up the great work.



Top reader of each form and getting a postcard:

Top KS3 readers:

The following students are the top readers in their form class and will be awarded a postcard!

Year 7: Mahnoor Ali 7C, Sumaiyyah Abdul-Qadir 7F, Rosanna Drew Rennie 7S, Imaan Mohammed 7W.

Year 8: Zairah Ahmed 8C, Maira Riaz 8F, Sofia Abid 8S, Ozelle Villier 8W

Year 9: Dixie Donohoe 9C, Asma Waheed 9F, Ajwa Mehboob 9S, Sakeenah Parkar 9W

Achievement Points

