

24th April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families well. It has been a purposeful and, at times, demanding first week of the Summer Term, and I would like to begin by thanking our students for the maturity and focus they have shown in returning to school so positively. There has been a strong sense of determination across the school, particularly as we move into what is a significant period in the academic year. Our Year 11 students have now begun their GCSE journey in earnest, with practical examinations already underway and the main written examination series fast approaching. This is a crucial time, and we are encouraging all students to approach the coming weeks with discipline, resilience and a clear sense of purpose. Alongside this, the school continues to operate fully during a challenging period, and I am extremely proud of the way our community has responded. There has been a collective commitment from staff and students alike to maintain high standards, routines and expectations, ensuring that learning continues with consistency and focus. As always, this newsletter provides an overview of the many activities, opportunities and updates from across the school, reflecting the breadth and richness of school life at Connaught.

Year 11 GCSE examinations

Our Year 11 students are now well underway with their examinations in practical subjects. This marks the start of the final and most important phase of their GCSE journey. It is vital that students are working hard every evening, whilst also ensuring they maintain some balance and downtime. I often speak to students about three groups: those who work hard in and out of lessons and achieve highly; those who work hard in lessons but not beyond and do reasonably well; and those who do not apply themselves consistently and fall short of their potential. The message is clear: sacrifice in time now will reap dividends later. We are encouraging all Year 11 students to commit fully in these final weeks. As a school we are working hard to keep all lessons going despite the significant challenges we are facing.

School is fully open to all students

This week, the school has remained **fully open**, and I am pleased to confirm **that this will also be the case next week**. From Monday to Wednesday, our planned visit to Paris will **go ahead as scheduled**, alongside all lessons and activities taking place in school. The school is fully open and all students should attend as normal.

Maintaining this level of provision during a period of industrial action is not without challenge, and I want to take a moment to recognise the exceptional effort of the staff who have been in school. Their professionalism, flexibility and unwavering commitment to our students have ensured that the school continues to operate with a strong sense of normality and purpose. Behind the scenes, a great deal of careful planning and coordination has taken place to make

this possible, and I am incredibly proud of the way colleagues have come together to prioritise the needs of our students. They have had the needs of the children at the heart of every decision and action.

The support received from parents has been incredibly uplifting during this very difficult week. We have received letters and emails from parents wishing to show support for all the colleagues in school. This has been truly humbling and we are so grateful for your ongoing support for us in school, and your patience with the school while we go through these challenging times together. These messages have been a source of real encouragement for staff and a reminder of the strength of our school community. Knowing that families recognise the effort being made, and stand alongside the school during this time, is something we are deeply grateful for and I will share these kind messages with the team at school.

Year 8 Parents evening

Parents' Evening will take place on Wednesday 29th April 4.30 - 7pm.

Appointment bookings can be made via Arbor:

Step-by-Step Guide (App or Web)

- 1. Log In: Access the Arbor Parent Portal on your browser or use the Arbor App.**
- 2. Find Consultations: Look for "Guardian Consultations" on your homepage or under the main menu (often the three lines/dots icon).**
- 3. Select Child: If you have more than one child, choose the correct student from the list.**
- 4. Choose Teacher: Click on the teachers you wish to meet with (they will appear if they are available for that evening).**
- 5. Pick a Slot: Use the drop-down menu to select your preferred time.**
- 6. Book & Confirm: Click the "Book" or "Book Time Slot" button, then confirm your choice when prompted.**
- 7. Check Email: You'll receive an email confirmation, and your booking will appear in the Guardian Consultations section.**

Quick Tips:

- Book ASAP as slots fill up fast (first-come, first-served).**
- You must book separate slots for each child.**
- If you don't see available slots, the booking window might not be open yet.**

Detailed instructions can be found [here](#).

If you have any issues logging in to the booking system, please send an email to school@connaught.waltham.sch.uk or telephone the School Office and we will be in contact as soon as possible.

Year 11 shirt signing

The annual event of Year 11 shirt signing will take place next Friday afternoon at lunchtime. This is an event Year 11 look forward to immensely and they have already begun to create decorated shirts ready for signing. This event will take place next week Friday (1st May).

- Year 11 students will need to bring a **SPARE** shirt in for people to sign on, they will not be permitted to have the shirt that they are wearing signed.
- They should make sure they have a pen/pens that can write clearly on fabric.
- Any pictures, etc. that they decorate their shirts with must be appropriate for school.

Non-Uniform day

To go alongside the Year 11 shirt signing next Friday there will also be a non-uniform day as a reward for excellent student conduct over the entirety of these issues we are facing in school. We have all been incredibly impressed by the maturity and focus they have brought everyday, embodying the school values of resilience as they continue to try their very best in school despite the challenges.

Ms Maniar has shared all the details around expectations and health and safety with students already.

A huge thank you to all of you for your excellent behaviour over the past two weeks. Students have shown real maturity, respect, and commitment to our school values, and it hasn't gone unnoticed. As a reward for hard work and positive attitudes, we're delighted to announce a **non-uniform day on Friday 1st May 2026**. This is our way of saying 'thank you' for making Connaught School For Girls such a positive place to learn. Keep up the fantastic work – you're setting a brilliant example for everyone.

What to wear: Please remember that whilst you can wear your own clothes, they should still be appropriate for school.

This means:

- Clothing should be suitable and appropriate for a school environment
- Tops should have sleeves and provide appropriate coverage- underwear should not be visible
- No see through garments
- No offensive slogans or images
- Footwear should be safe for moving around school
- No flags
- No flag 'make-up'
- No acrylic or false nails and discreet make-up only
- Lashes allowed for non uniform day ONLY
- Jewellery is permitted but no hoops or dangly earrings (health and safety reasons)

Paris visit

At 4:30 am on Monday morning, staff and students will be gathering to embark on their journey for our residential trip to Paris. We are delighted that this visit is able to go ahead and grateful to the staff who have made this happen. There will be an update in next week's newsletter on their travels which will include visits to the Louvre, Notre Dame, the Eiffel Tower, the Musée de l'Illusion, Montmartre, Jardin de Luxembourg and the Arc de Triomphe and a boat trip along the Seine. Bon voyage!



'Connaught goes out'- going ahead as planned!

Look out for the Connaught Goes Out letter which will be sent via Arbor at the start of next week. The **whole school** will be out on visits on **Wednesday 24th June**. All students have the opportunity to take part in a visit:

- Years 7 and 8 - Chessington World of Adventure (£42)
- Years 9 and 10 - Thorpe Park (£47)
- Years 7 - 10 - London Walk and picnic (no cost)

Places on visits can be secured on a first come, first served basis by paying a non-refundable deposit and completing consent via Arbor. These visits are a staple in the school calendar every year and students look forward to these reward visits and they are a great bonding opportunity for students and a valuable part of their school experience. We are pleased to offer these again this year and these visits will go ahead.

Term dates for next year

Term dates for next year have been agreed by school governors and are attached to this letter and will also be put onto the school website.

Local activities

I am pleased to share an opportunity from our local community. Friend of the school and Walthamstow resident [Les Capon](#) will be speaking at [All Hallows](#) on Thursday 30th April at 5:30pm. As a supervising archaeologist during the construction of the Queen Mother Centre, he will share fascinating insights into discoveries made and what they reveal about our local history. This promises to be an engaging and enriching evening for those able to attend.

Some more information now about [Bee Zee Bodies](#) lifestyle courses, which support families with healthy living and wellbeing. Beezee Families, a FREE healthy lifestyle programme that our nutritionists deliver across Waltham Forest. The 12-week programme supports families to build healthy habits around food and physical activity. [Visit the BeeZee Families Waltham Forest website for more details.](#)

Art and Photography GCSE exams

Year 11 students have made an excellent start to the GCSE exam season by successfully completing their Art and Photography practical exams, the first GCSE assessments to be finished. It has been fantastic to see such creativity, dedication and focus from the students this week.

We wish them the very best of luck as they continue with their language speaking exams this week, and as they prepare for the written exam series beginning on 6th May.

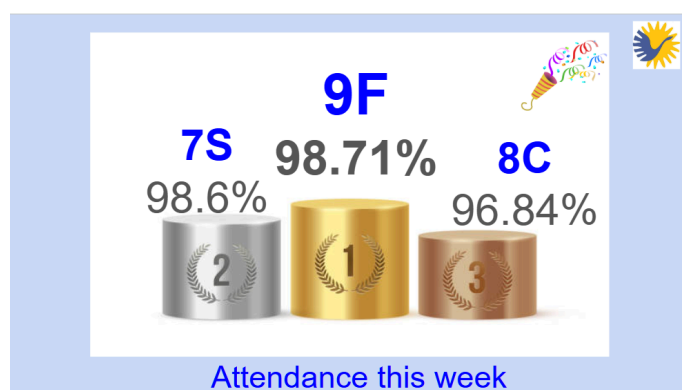
Assembly next week

Next week's assemblies are

Attendance Matters

Attendance to school remains a key focus. All students should attend as usual every day and be on time, arriving at school by 8.20am.

We are pleased to introduce our new Educational Welfare Officer (EWO), Nathalie Bennett who works as part of Waltham Forest BACME (Behaviour, Attendance and Children Missing from Education Service). We will be working together to support families in ensuring excellent attendance.



Achievement Points

Table with 3 columns: Date, Group, and Points. Callouts highlight highest APs in KS3 and KS4.

Leaderboard Summer term 1-Tutor groups		
13.04.26	8F	211
20.04.26	8F	518
27.04.26		
04.05.26		
11.05.26		
18.05.26		

Callout 1: Highest number of APs in KS3 this week: Nina C 8F (27!!)

Callout 2: Highest number of APs in KS4 this week: Maliha R 10S (15!)

Bedrock Leaderboard

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

Ozelle Villiers 8W → 226

Rosanna Drew Rennie 7S → 164

Gabrielle Djemili-Arnold 8S → 102



Leila Siraz 8C → 94

Aoife Rae 8W → 71

Leila Watson 8W → 62

Mary Ellis-Williams 8F → 50

Maryam Ali 8C → 46

Aisha Issuf 9W → 45

Susanna Chum 9F → 45

Reading Matters: Congratulations 8S!

Inner Spark assemblies

On Thursday 23rd April, years 7-10 benefited from an Inner Spark workshop delivered by a singer, mental health advocate and digital well being educator called Eleni C who helps young people bring intention and resilience to their online lives. Her story combined creative expression with personal advocacy – using music and real stories to spark open, honest conversation.

The “Mind Over Media: Scroll Smart” Workshop was a dynamic and empowering session in which Eleni helped students examine how social media shapes emotions and identity – and how to make it work for them, not against them. Through real examples, guided reflection, and group discussion, she showed students how to set boundaries, spot misleading content, build healthy habits and curate a feed that supports their wellbeing.



Rooted in self-awareness, accountability, and resilience, the session helps students ignite their inner SPARK:

- Self-Awareness: Students explored how their social media use influences feelings, comparison and self-image.
- Purpose: They reflected on what they want their digital presence to represent and how it can support their goals.
- Accountability: The session encouraged students to take ownership of their online choices – managing screen time, unfollowing harmful content, and building a supportive network.
- Resilience: Eleni offered tools for navigating negativity, cyber pressure and misinformation with confidence.

- Kindness: The session inspired students to bring empathy and positivity to their online interactions.

With creative energy, warm authenticity and a deep respect for young people’s voices, Eleni invited students to step into a digital life they feel in control of – grounded, expressive and empowered.

Extra-Curricular Provision

	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 RIC 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 10 Drama Rehearsals MAL Drama Studio	Year 7 Cooking Club WAL Room H1	Year 7 Nuture Club ELK Room 42	11x/Ma3 Maths Drop In PET Room 10	Year 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	Drama Club MAL Hall
		Year 8 Attend Club ALI Room 38	Duke Of Edinburgh Support DES	Year 11 Chemistry Clinic AMR Mobile Week A Only	

			Room 7 Week B Only		
		Drama Club MAL Hall	History Film Club KLE Room 6	Year 11 Drama Intervention MAL Room 8	
		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		
			Key Stage 3 Collage Club ELB Room 9		
			GCSE Art Coursework Catch Up Club HOC Room 17		
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			11x/Sc3 Science Intervention Lab 4 IQB Week B
	Year 10 Drama Rehearsals MAL Drama Studio	Leyton Orient Football Club GAG Gym			
	Year 11 Spanish Intervention EMA Room 40	Year 11 Drama Intervention MAL Room 8			

Wishing you a great weekend as always.



Mr. Silk
Headteacher