

**22nd May 2026**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families well.

As we reach the end of another busy and productive half-term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our students, staff and families for their continued hard work, resilience and support. Despite this being an exceptionally demanding period of the academic year, there has once again been a great deal to celebrate across the school community, from the positive start made by our Year 11 students in their GCSE examinations, to the many enrichment, literacy and STEAM opportunities that continue to showcase the talent, creativity and ambition of our young people.

This week has also been a timely reminder that education extends far beyond examination results alone. Whether through poetry competitions, geography fieldwork simulations, careers experiences, sporting opportunities or national innovation awards, our students continue to demonstrate the confidence, character and curiosity that we work so hard to nurture at Connaught. I am continually proud of the way in which our students rise to opportunities, represent the school with maturity and conduct themselves with such positivity both inside and beyond the classroom.

As we move into the half-term break, I hope families are able to enjoy a well-earned opportunity to rest and recharge ahead of the final stretch of the academic year. The weeks ahead will remain busy and important, particularly for those students completing examinations and preparing for transition into the next stage of their education. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing partnership and support in helping us maintain the high standards, strong routines and ambitious culture that enable our students to flourish.

A huge well done to our Year 11 students who have made a very positive start to the examination season. Staff have commented on the mature and purposeful approach shown by the overwhelming majority of students, and we are proud of how they have conducted themselves so far. A gentle but important reminder for families and students of both Year 11 doing GCSEs and the upcoming Year 10 mock exams: Ofqual have again warned students that bringing a mobile phone or smart device into an examination hall places qualifications at serious risk. Last year nationally there were over 2,000 recorded cases of malpractice linked to phones and smart devices, with many students losing marks or, in some cases, being disqualified from examinations altogether. Please do take this message seriously and support us in ensuring students leave phones and smart devices at home or placed in bags appropriately before examinations begin.

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) is urging schools and colleges to remind students that Wednesday 24th June is reserved for the contingency day should any exams need to be

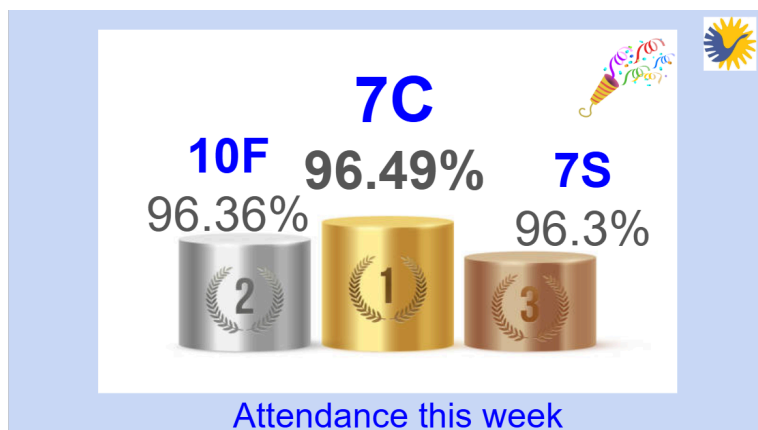
rescheduled due to national or local emergencies. Students should be prepared to sit exams on that date if it is required.

### **Assembly week beginning 01.06.26**

The assembly after half-term will be led by Year 9 students showcasing their achievements at the Teen Tech Awards (see below for further information)

### **Attendance Matters**

As I often say, attendance remains one of the biggest priorities and indeed challenges facing schools nationally. We know attendance can be a complex issue for some families and young people, with a range of factors at play including anxiety, illness and wider family circumstances. At the same time, regular attendance remains one of the strongest predictors of academic success, wellbeing and positive routines. Thank you, as always, for your continued support in helping students attend school consistently and on time.



Congratulations to Year 7 whose attendance has been consistently excellent throughout the half term.

Please remember that excellent attendance is expected throughout the summer term as the school remains fully open. Term time holidays and travel will not be authorised and will be referred to the Waltham Forest attendance team (BACME). Absences of students whose attendance has become Persistently Absent (less than 90%) will not be authorised without medical evidence being provided by a GP or hospital. 10 sessions (i.e. 5 school days) of unauthorised absence will be referred to our Education Welfare Officer (EWO) and BACME.

### **Punctuality - Late to School**

Students must arrive via the playground gate in Connaught Road before 8.30am (line up begins at 8.25am)

Students who arrive after 8.30am (when the playground gates are closed) must enter via the main reception in Dyers Hall Road and register on the Inventory system.

### **From 1st June 2026 we will be amending our late systems:**

**All students** (Years 7-11) who arrive late to school (after 8.30am) will have a **same day 30 minute late detention** from 3.20 - 3.50 (Mon - Thurs)/2.20 - 2.50pm (Fri).

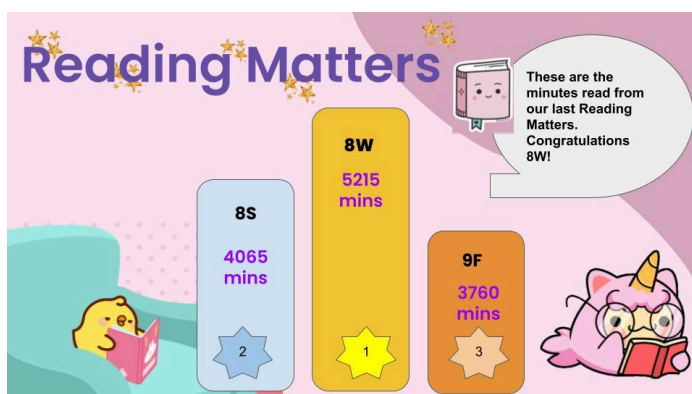
Parents/carers will be notified via Arbor.

Students who are **late 3 times in one week** will have a **60 minute SLT detention on Fri** (2.20 - 3.20pm)

Parents/Carers will be notified via Arbor.

### Reading Matters

This week's winners are 8W!  
Congratulations!



### Bedrock Leaderboard

The following students are on the top 10 leaderboard and will be receiving a postcard. Well done!

1.  Aoife Rae 8W → 1787
2.  Leila Siraz 8C → 1257
3.  Ozelle Villiers 8W → 1122 points
4.  Gabrielle Djemili-Arnold 8S → 1015 points
5.  Rosanna Drew Rennie 7S → 1006 points
6.  Maryam Ali 8C → 895 points
7.  Hafsa Abdul Khaliq 8S → 890 points
9.  Arisha Malik 9G → 834 points
10.  Maryam Rizwan 8W → 757 points

### Achievement Points

8F have proved unstoppable this half term - congratulations!

The Leaderboard reverts to zero for the start of next half term so every tutor group has the chance to top the board.

Leaderboard Summer term 1-Tutor groups		
13.04.26	<b>8F</b>	<b>211</b>
20.04.26	<b>8F</b>	<b>518</b>
27.04.26	<b>8F</b>	<b>589</b>
04.05.26	<b>8F</b>	<b>648</b>
11.05.26	<b>8F</b>	<b>773</b>
18.05.26	<b>8F</b>	<b>947</b>

Highest number of APs in KS3 this week: Mariya H 8S (22!)

Highest number of APs in KS4 this week: Kitty-Rae C 10S (12!)

### Ypres Visit

We are excited to offer students the opportunity to visit famous First World War battlefields and museums around the Belgian town of Ypres.

This educational visit is open to all students currently in Year 9 or Year 10 who will be studying GCSE History in the upcoming academic year.

### Trip Dates:

Thursday 17th September – Friday 18th September

Students will depart school by coach at approximately 5:00am on Thursday morning, stay overnight in local accommodation, and return to school at approximately 10:00pm on Friday evening.

**Provisional Itinerary:**

- Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917
- British Dugout Experience
- German Trench Experience
- Tyne Cot British Cemetery
- Langemark German Cemetery
- The Brooding Soldier at Vancouver Corner
- Menin Gate Memorial
- Hooze Crater Museum
- A visit to the Leonidas chocolate shop in Ypres



**Cost & Payment Information:**

The total cost of the trip will be approximately £200–£230, depending on the final number of students attending.

The following payments will be made in instalments via Arbor:

£75 deposit due before Friday 12th June

Remaining balance to be paid before the start of the summer holidays

At present, we have received 17 replies, but we need a minimum of 40 students for the trip to go ahead.

Last year we took a group of 44 students to Ypres and they had a fantastic experience, gaining valuable insight into the realities of trench warfare and the impact of the First World War. We hope many more students will take advantage of this memorable and enriching opportunity.

If you would like your child to take part in this educational visit, please pick up a letter from Mr Klemencic and return the completed form in the first week back after the half term.

**Young Poet Laureate**

In a previous newsletter, we had mentioned that two of our talented students were invited to the finals of the Young Poet Laureate competition. Maria Rahman 9S and Sienna Amegashie 8F attended the workshop at Faber and Faber offices in London on Friday.

They performed their poems and they did an amazing job at putting their best foot forward at showcasing their skills to become London's first Young Poet Laureate.

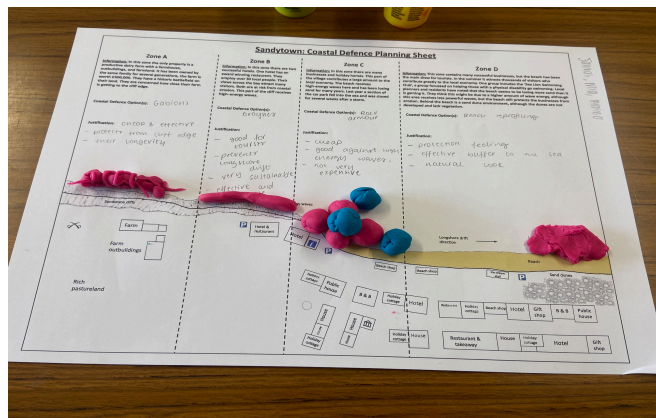
*“Taking part in the National Youth Poet Laureate Competition was a completely new and exciting experience for me. At first, I felt nervous about sharing my poetry with others, but the competition quickly became something I truly enjoyed. I had the chance to*



*meet talented young poets, listen to different styles of writing, and express my own thoughts and creativity in a supportive environment. One of the most inspiring parts of the experience was meeting professional poets in the industry, who shared their advice, experiences, and passion for poetry. Hearing their journeys motivated me and gave me a better understanding of what it takes to succeed as a writer. Overall, the competition was a fun and memorable opportunity that helped me grow in confidence and appreciate poetry even more.”*

## Year 10 Geography work

Year 10 geographers recently took part in an engaging coastal management challenge where they created a Shoreline Management Plan for the fictional location of Sandytown. Working collaboratively in groups, students explored a range of coastal defence strategies, including both soft and hard engineering techniques, and justified their decisions using evidence and careful reasoning. To bring their ideas to life, students used Play-Doh to model and simulate their chosen management strategies, helping to develop their understanding of coastal processes while also strengthening their exam technique and decision making skills.



## TeenTech Awards

We have some fantastic news from our Year 9 cohort that put together a STEAM project in Literacy. They were taught research and project management skills and put their newly found skills into practice by producing a STEAM project that would make people’s lives better, safer or more fun. It is with great pleasure to announce that out of all of year 9 projects, 13 projects were chosen to be submitted, and 3 have been selected to go to the finals! The finals will take place at the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) in London, where judges from across many fields will be attending to view the projects. The three finalists from our school, and the category they are being judged within are:

Halima Khan: MM Café (Ethical Innovations) Halima’s project is a community run mental health focussed café, where in person connections are the priority.

Sabika Qadeer, Suhayla Ismail and Zunaira Sajjad: Obo Smart Water Bottle (Patient Safety) This project is a smart water bottle that gamifies the water-drinking experience.

Pritiga Thanabalasingam: ChillShift (Wearable Technology) This project is a smart heated blanket that shrivels up when it’s time to wake up.

These three teams will be working very hard over the next few weeks to perfect their project to showcase to the judges at the IET. Good luck to them all!



In recognition of our school's commitment to giving students the opportunity to develop skills that will serve them well in the years ahead, we are thrilled to confirm that our school has been awarded Silver TeenTech Centre of Innovation status.

### Reminder: Connaught goes out

As we approach the end of the academic year our year group trips are fast approaching. As I have mentioned previously these are always a real highlight of the school calendar and we strongly encourage all students to take part and make lasting memories with their peers.

End of year trip details are as follows:

<b>Year 7 and 8</b>	<b>Chessington World of Adventures (theme park and zoo)</b>	<b>London Walk - sightseeing walking tour</b>
<b>times</b>	Leaving school at 8:00 am (You will be notified of the exact time of departure arrangements nearer the time). Return to school approximately 6:00pm	9:00 am meet in the school playground. Return to school approx. 3:00pm.
<b>cost</b>	<b>£42</b> This cost includes coach travel and theme park/zoo entrance	<b>no cost (free)</b>
<b>Information to note</b>	<b>£15 initial non-refundable deposit</b> to be paid via Arbor (or pay in full). The remaining <b>£27.00</b> to be paid via Arbor and may be paid in instalments. The final payment must be made by <b>Friday 12th June 2026</b> .	

<b>Year 9 and 10</b>	<b>Thorpe Park (theme park)</b>	<b>London Walk - sightseeing walking tour</b>
<b>times</b>	Leaving school at 8:30 am (You will be notified of the exact time of departure arrangements nearer the time). Return to school approximately 7:30pm	9:00 am meet in the school playground. Return to school approx. 3:00pm.
<b>cost</b>	<b>£47</b> This cost includes coach travel and theme park entrance	<b>no cost (free)</b>
<b>Information to note</b>	<b>£15 initial non-refundable deposit</b> to be paid via Arbor (or pay in full). The <b>remaining £32</b> to be paid via Arbor and may be made in instalments. The final payment must be made by <b>Friday 12th June 2026</b> .	

Lloyds Banking Group - May Half Term Virtual Work Experience for students in Years 10 and 11.

Friday 29th May 1pm - 3:45pm

Join us for the Lloyds Banking Group Virtual May Half Term Work Experience for a fast-paced afternoon of challenges, real-world scenarios and networking with professionals from across the industry. Lloyds Banking Group is one of the largest banks in the UK and offers so many fantastic opportunities to students across the UK. This hands-on experience is designed to help you build the skills employers are looking for within the industry.

[Apply here](#)

### **Y7 Framestore Visit**

Thirty lucky Y7 students were given the opportunity to go to Framestore, Chancery Lane, to find out more about career opportunities in media and tech. Framestore is known for its work in a plethora of movies, including The Barbie Movie and Paddington, using a range of visual effects and other digital technologies. The company has offices all over the world, including New York, Chicago, Melbourne and Mumbai.

At Framestore, the students learnt about the variety of jobs available within the company, routes into employment in this sector and created their own vision boards to sell an experience to a 'client'.

Connaught students were exemplary throughout the visit, and cleaned up with three of our teams winning 2nd and joint 1st place against another school! A particular shout out goes to Shurooq in 7S, who worked independently and was brave enough to deliver her ideas in front of the whole audience. Well done to all students involved!



## Extra-Curricular Provision

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Before school</b>	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
<b>Lunch time</b>	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 Intervention 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 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 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		
<b>After school</b>	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 fantastic and well-deserved half-term break,



Mr. Silk  
Headteacher