CONNAUGHT
School for Girls

Seize the day
EXCELLENCE. RESILIENCE. INCLUSION.

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Headteacher: Mr Alexander Silk, MA , NPQH

26th June 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families well. We have a bumper edition this week!

Firstly, I would like to thank families for your support and understanding over the course of this week's exceptional temperatures.

The decision to close the school site at lunchtime on four consecutive days is not one that I have taken lightly. Decisions of this nature are never straightforward. Throughout the week, we have sought to strike the right balance between maintaining education whilst ensuring the wellbeing of both students and staff in what have been exceptionally challenging conditions.

Looking ahead, the forecast suggests temperatures returning to a much more manageable 23–24°C next week. We will therefore return to normal full school uniform from Monday. As always, we will remain agile should the forecast change again. A reminder with uniform that under-layers should not be seen, and short sleeved shirts with a base layer underneath is not part of the school uniform. Students should wear a long sleeved shirt if this what is wanted.

As we prepare for September, I would encourage all families who do not currently claim Free School Meals to take a few minutes to check whether they may now be eligible. Even if you are unsure, it is well worth checking. Eligibility can unlock valuable support for your child as well as additional funding for the school, which directly benefits students. The online eligibility checker is quick and easy to use: https://fsm.lgfl.net. If the checker confirms that you are eligible, you will then be invited to submit a formal application to the London Borough of Waltham Forest. We would strongly encourage families to complete this before September wherever possible.

The Mayor of Waltham Forest, is pleased to announce that applications are now open for two Youth Mayor positions. This is an exciting opportunity for young people (14-25) to represent the views of their peers, develop valuable leadership and communication skills and play an active role in shaping their local community. Students with an interest in making a difference and getting involved in civic life are encouraged to apply. Please see here for further information about the role and the application process.

Creative Services, Waltham Forest offer a range of free activities and support for young people in a safe and welcoming environment. Opportunities include music production, DJ and podcast workshops, performing arts, arts and crafts, cooking, multi-sports, gaming, mentoring, homework support, personal development and organised trips. Please see here for further information and details of how to get involved.

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Company's registered office: Dyers Hall Road, Leytonstone, London E11 4AB

Finally, the Children's Commissioner for England has asked schools to encourage students to complete The Big Future survey. The survey is designed to hear directly from children and young people across England about their experiences, hopes and aspirations, helping to shape future national policy. At present, only one response has been received from a Kelmscott student, so I would be grateful if families could encourage their child to take part. The survey can be found here: The Big Future survey - have your say!

Football opportunity

Looking for something active and fun over the summer? The **Waltham Forest Community Hub** is running a **FREE Squad Girls Football Camp** for girls aged **11–16** on **4, 7, 11 and 14 August**, from **10.00am–2.00pm** at **Peter May Sports Centre**. The camp is open to **all abilities** and will include football, fun challenges, boxing and other activities led by qualified coaches. It's a fantastic opportunity to stay active, make new friends and build confidence over the summer holidays. Please see the flyer for more information and booking details.

Year 10 Sleepover – Another Fantastic Success!

Another fantastic sleepover took place on Friday 19th June with Ms Diamond's Year 10 group, providing students with a memorable evening filled with fun, friendship, and laughter.

Students arrived through the school gates laden with duvets, sleeping bags, snacks, and sweets, already dressed in their pyjamas and ready for the excitement ahead. The evening got off to a brilliant start, with music blasting from the speaker in the playground while students enjoyed roller skating, ball games, and spending time together outdoors. Inside the hall, students showcased their favourite songs and danced along enthusiastically to *Just Dance*.

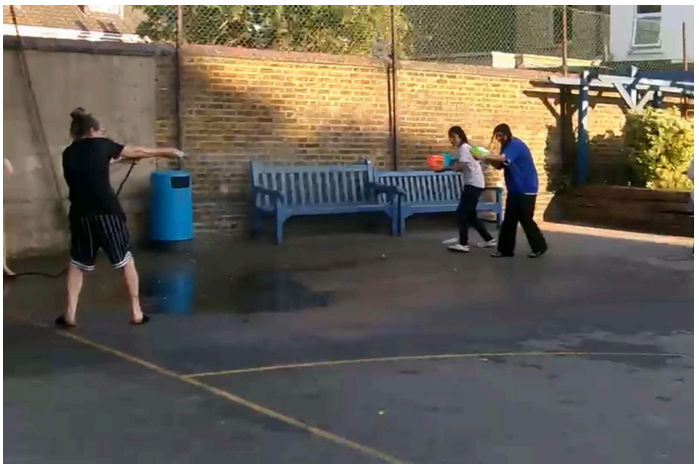
After a delicious pizza delivery had been enjoyed by all, the fun continued with a huge water fight. Students and staff alike joined in, resulting in everyone getting thoroughly soaked! Given the exceptionally warm weather, this proved to be a welcome way to cool down and created plenty of laughter and unforgettable memories.

Many students were determined to make the most of every minute and stayed awake throughout the night. By 5:30am, some were already eager to head back outside for more roller skating. Unsurprisingly, there were many tired faces by the end of the event, with students looking forward to returning home for some well-earned rest.

The sleepover provided a wonderful opportunity for students to strengthen existing friendships and build new connections with peers they may not usually spend time with. It was another great experience that encouraged teamwork, social interaction, and confidence.

The students' behaviour throughout the event was exemplary, and they were a real credit to themselves and the school.

A huge thank you goes to all the staff who generously gave up their time to stay overnight, as well as those who helped with the planning and preparation beforehand. Their commitment and enthusiasm ensured the event was such a tremendous success.



Connaught goes out:

We were all disappointed that we had to postpone our Connaught Goes Out visits this week due to the ‘red alert weather alert’ heatwave conditions but the safety of our students and staff is our priority. We have been able to keep the theme park tickets and we will contact you as soon as we have finalised our rescheduled date. This is likely to be in September when we can arrange coaches, staffing and give necessary notice to all families.

Assembly week beginning 22.06.26

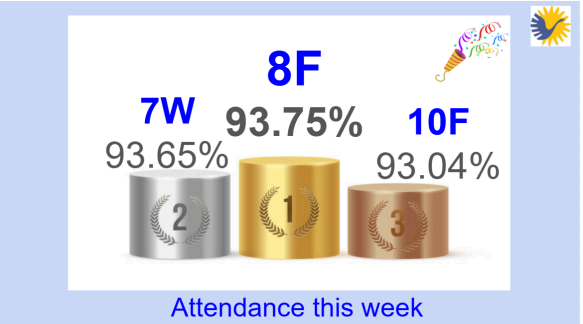
Mr Silk will be leading assemblies about the 250th anniversary of the American Declaration of Independence.

Attendance Matters

Our attendance has been lower than usual this week. Temperatures are forecast to return to normal next week and we expect all students to attend school every day.

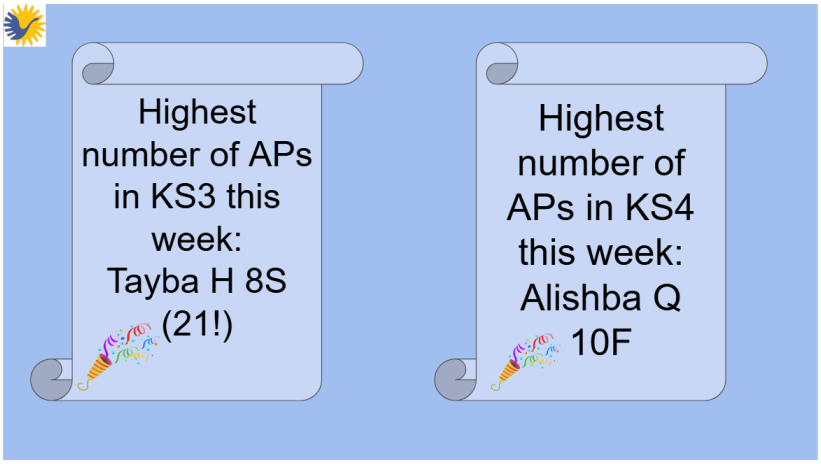
Students should bring refillable water bottles to ensure they remain appropriately hydrated during periods of higher temperatures.

Congratulations to Year 7 overall and 8F in particular!



Achievement Points

Congratulations to:



Science Department

The science department has been extremely busy this final term with many classes finishing off their topics and having end-of-unit assessments. This means that the students will now have more time to further explore and develop their practical skills before the end of the summer term.
The following students were keen to put theory into practice in the open evening and thoroughly enjoyed demonstrating the practicals to each other whilst gaining confidence in their knowledge as they waited for prospective parents to arrive.
They were all amazing and I would like to thank them all for their time and commitment.
Year 9:- Aisha, Eshaal, Susanna, Malika, Sirine, Rania, Esha, Saffiyah, Eshal, Ajwa
Year 8:- Alina, Anabiya

Thank you to everyone in the science department for all their hard work.

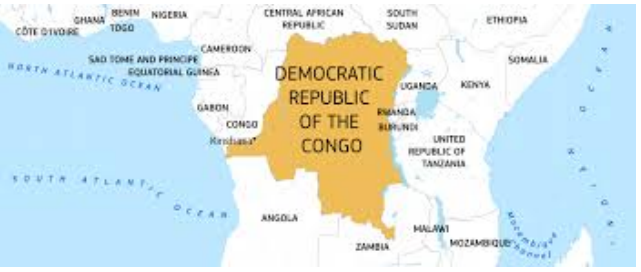
Mrs S Siddique

J’adore…le français!

Several Y10 French students started the week off in style, having breakfast at *J’adore* Café, Leytonstone, accompanied by M. Ferreira and Mme. El Khandari. Students were able to experience French café culture, order in French and sample a variety of delicious cakes and drinks. *Bon appétit à tous!*

Saying *‘bonjour!’* to all the passing traffic on the way back to school!

MFL Department



Supporting Schools in the Democratic Republic of Congo

The Modern Foreign Languages department at Connaught School recently partnered with a charity that supports schools in the Democratic Republic of Congo. As part of this initiative, we donated a collection of old textbooks, audio resources and teacher guides from a previous MFL specification.

These materials had been stored in the department for the past ten years and were no longer in use. Rather than allowing them to remain unused, we were delighted to give them a new purpose where they can make a real difference.

We are pleased to know that these resources will support both students and teachers in schools with fewer educational opportunities and resources than our own. This donation reflects our commitment to sustainability, global citizenship and helping others through practical action.

We hope that these materials will contribute positively to language learning and teaching in the Democratic Republic of Congo for years to come.

<u>From the Baobab Tree Charity</u>:

18th June 2026

Dear Modern Foreign Languages department Connaught School for Girls,

I hope you are well.

I wanted to extend my sincere thanks to you, and the Connaught leadership team for the generous donation that we collected yesterday. We are truly grateful for your support and for taking the time to organise and facilitate the collection.

I hope the open evening went well and that it was a successful event for everyone involved.

The books and educational resources you have donated will help support children and schools in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where access to quality educational materials is often limited. Donations such as yours make a meaningful difference and help us continue our mission of improving access to education.

We really appreciate your support and would love to keep you updated on the impact of your donation. As the resources are distributed and used within our partner schools and community projects in Congo, we would be delighted to share updates and photographs with you.

Thank you once again for your kindness, generosity, and support of The Baobab Tree Charity.

Warm regards,

Magalie
The Baobab Tree Charity

Culture Day 2026

CSFG selfie 25/6/26

What a fantastic celebration of our school's diverse cultures and heritages! Despite the warm weather, our culture day was a tremendous success, and we have so many people to thank. A huge thank you to our PTA for their incredible support in organising the event, and to our staff and students who worked tirelessly to bring everything together. The food was absolutely delicious – the cakes, samosas and nachos were particularly popular and disappeared quickly! The raffle was a huge hit with many happy winners walking away with prizes, and 'sponge the teacher' proved to be an enjoyable (and refreshing!) event for everyone involved. Special thanks go to our Head of the PTA Samim, and to our DJ for keeping the energy high throughout the two hours. We've captured so many beautiful photographs that truly celebrate the diverse cultures and heritages that make our school community so special. Thank you all for making this day memorable!

CSFG PTA

What a fantastic culture day event, the friends of Connaught PTA had an array of activities, refreshments, bakes, savouries, books, gifts for sale and not forgetting our fab raffle with so many fantastic prizes from vouchers for Westfields, saphora, Vue cinema and some sweets n treats hampers which were soo kindly sponsored by Trading places Estate agents who support our school events with monetary sponsorship and great prizes to add to our raffle. We thank them wholeheartedly and we have raised £1500.00.

Our other donations came from, Blue tit hairdressers, Yardsale pizza, clip n climb O2, Laser Tag Greenwich, The Entertainer Stratford and to friends and parents for their donations including Sumaiyah Patel for her generous monetary donation towards the culture day and not forgetting Nida from Islamic impressions for donating the henna cones.

The PTA would like to thank all the students who helped with Mehndi, face painting and the popular Nacho station and at the bakes stall and the savoury samosas which were flying out!

A huge thanks to all the parent/staff volunteers:

Vanda, Sanam, Debbie, Amina, Zaneb, Suri, Adila , Aisha Bilal, Raha , Minahil, Anjani

Thank you to all who supported our event in any way, every little helps, we truly appreciate it and if you would like to support us in our future events please do get in touch on connaughtschoolpta@gmail.com and join our mailing list or WhatsApp group

The money we raise goes to support enrichment activities for students at school and this year we have supported the Y11 leavers event, Movie with popcorn n drinks which will take place next week afterschool and drama dept for the upcoming afternoon production for parents and students.

Ultimately we host events like the culture day, winter fairs and bake-sales so students have an opportunity to enjoy and have fun in a safe space with friends and peers and raise funds for their enrichment.

Until the next event …

Samim Patel

Chair of friends of Connaught PTA

Careers

Teen Tech Finalists!

As mentioned previously, we had 4 groups of students who took part in the Finals of the Teen Tech Awards. This was a nationwide event which included 100s of other schools; our Year 9s were chosen to represent our school. Due to the weather, we were unable to make the journey to The Savoy, however the organisation were able to make a special allowance by ensuring we could complete it virtually. All groups did incredibly well despite the circumstances; they were clear, thoughtful, disciplined and gave it their all. We are incredibly proud of them and cannot wait to share their successes!

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/ Games Club RIC/ SM 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 Rehersals 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		
		Jewellery Making Club SM Room 20	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.

Mr. Silk
Headteacher