

Learning to speak out and finding your voice

Students take part in Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' Challenge

THE Speaker's Trust paid a visit to our school to work with some of our Year 10 students in a bid to enhance their public speaking skills.

The workshop is also part of a competition as speakers are selected to compete against students from other schools in the borough.

Through taking part in a series of activities throughout the day, the students all had the opportunity to reflect on their ability to communicate in public and to increase their

skills in public speaking.

Ms Burton said: "Despite their varying confidence and skills at the beginning of the day, all of them felt that the workshop gave them strategies to feel more in control when presenting.

"By the end of the day, they were all able to stand up in front of the rest of the group and tell an anecdote with a message, mostly from memory.

"This is a feat most adults would shy away from – so they really do deserve a big congratulations for this, especially as they only had 20 minutes in which to create their speech."

At the end of the workshop, the judges selected six speakers to go through to the next round to compete against each other in assembly to allow them to practice their public speaking to a large crowd. A winner was then selected to perform against other schools.

Fostering a learning culture



I'M incredibly proud of all our staff and students here at Connaught School for Girls.

Reading through our first newsletter it is clear how hard everybody works not only academically but in fostering a learning culture underpinned by our core values.

As a diverse school, inclusivity plays a vital role in the development of our young people and informs how we approach learning, so I was thrilled to read about our students applying their knowledge of the book 'Refugee Boy' to share their concerns in letters to newspaper editors.

I have enjoyed reading about the careers fair and the excellent opportunities presented to our Year 9s as they visited the London Stadium – one of the most prestigious sports venues in the world.

Borough Market has been established in Southwark for generations and our students enjoyed an edifying and visceral experience visiting this vibrant centre of commerce.

Finally, congratulations to our public speaking superstars who impressed while at the Speaker's Trust competition and of course, to Umavi for winning the Cambridge University International Model United Nations Best Position Paper Award. An outstanding achievement!

It has been a challenging end to the term but I am proud of how the students have persevered through it, and kept a mature and diligent work ethic throughout.

I'd like to wish all our students, staff and families a peaceful festive break and I look forward to seeing you next year.



Alex Silk
Headteacher



CONGRATULATIONS
to Year 11 Umavi who has won a prestigious award. The hardworking student won the Cambridge University International Model United Nations Best Position Paper Award.



Careers Fair

Visit informs Yr 9 options discussions

A PRESTIGIOUS careers festival has inspired Year 9 students ahead of selecting their GCSE options.

The Sustainability Careers Festival at the London Stadium provided them with the opportunity to liaise and network with a range of companies and employers where they discussed careers pathways and sustainability.

Mr Kajue-Adolphe said: "All of the students

were fantastic ambassadors of Connaught, engaging in discussions along with being on their best behaviour.

"This was equally important ahead of Year 9's upcoming options discussions.

"The visit is part of our continued push into delivering opportunities and experiences to network with employers on the world of work."



Achieving our goals!



OUR students demonstrated incredible determination and teamwork at a football tournament.

The event was a fantastic opportunity

for growth. Special recognition goes to Asiya, Zuzanna and Dixie who all played key roles and delivered outstanding performances.

Learning all about STEM

STUDENTS from our Peer Mentoring Programme have been learning more about science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) by taking part in an innovative workshop.

The workshop was delivered by the organisation TechSheCan and it enabled the students to engage in the material, learn more about the benefits of technology and the ways it will evolve in the future.

Food for thought

A GROUP of students enjoyed a trip to Borough Market to learn more about preparing food and cooking.

The Year 11 Food Preparation and Nutrition students paid a visit to one of London's most renowned food destinations.

The visit was designed to inspire their Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) projects, focusing on the theme of "Takeaway Meals."

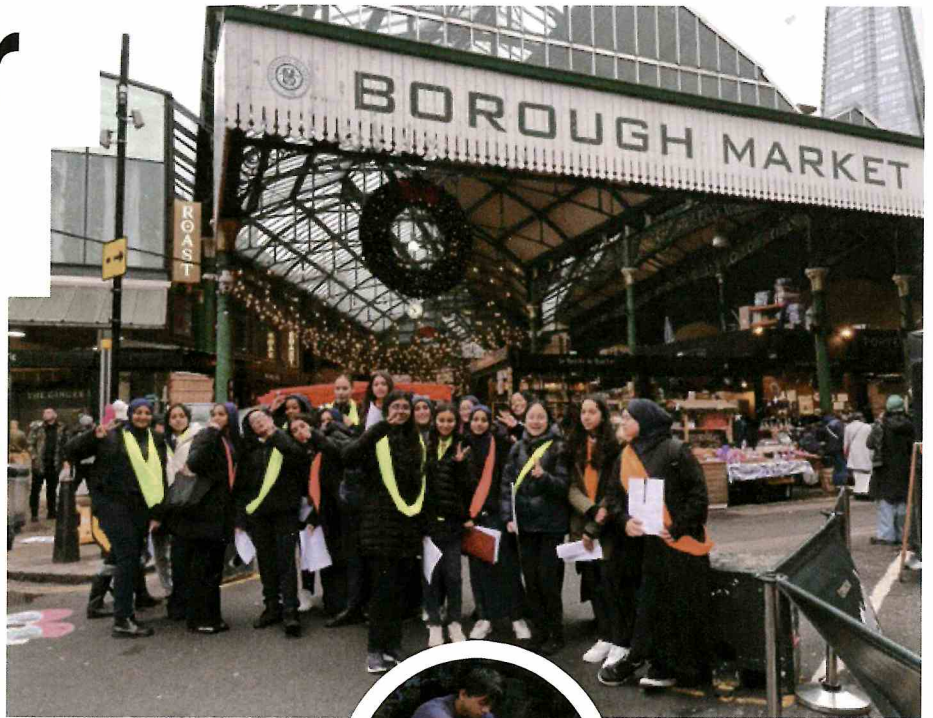
Mrs Wallace said: "Borough Market, with its vibrant array of food stalls and diverse culinary offerings, provided an ideal environment for students to observe and engage with the dynamic world of takeaway foods.

"The trip was packed with opportunities for hands-on learning and discovery, enabling students to gain practical insights into the food industry."

The students had the opportunity to interact with vendors, sample dishes, and take notes on food presentation and marketing techniques.

Mrs Wallace added: "This experience will undoubtedly enrich their understanding of the takeaway meal sector and provide inspiration for their NEA projects.

"We are confident that the knowledge gained during this trip will empower our students to create innovative, sustainable, and delicious takeaway meals as part of their coursework."



"It was really interesting to see how some dishes were presented and the kinds of sides that accompanied them."

Fellow student Audrey added:

"The market was filled with dishes from various cultures. I tried the creamy mushroom risotto and crispy chips, both of which were delicious.

"The unique use of colours, food decorations, and cultural elements inspired me to think about how presentation can make food more appealing.

"This trip gave me lots of ideas that I plan to use in my project to enhance the look of my dishes."

Student Imaan said: "I really enjoyed our trip to Borough Market because we got to see lots of different types of foods and cuisines from all over the world.

"We got the chance to explore the market, ask vendors questions about their produce and get inspiration for takeaway food.



An inspiring Soho visit, on reflection

CREATIVE students have taken stunning snapshots inspired by a trip to a top exhibition.

GCSE students travelled to Soho in London to visit The Photographers' Gallery where they viewed exhibitions and learned about life in Sicily in the 1970s and 80s from Italian photojournalist Letizia Battaglia.

They practiced their photography skills by taking snaps in the reflections of shop windows and in the style of American photographer Vivian Maier.

Snappy work

OUR Year 10 Photography students have been learning camera skills this term, practicing lots of different camera settings.

They recently carried out a food photoshoot which brought all the skills they had learnt so far this term together.

Ms Broadway, head of art and photography, said: "It is great to see their hard work and skill coming together in such a successful photoshoot lesson."

Meanwhile, Key Stage 3 students took part in a greetings card competition with the winning cards sold at the winter fair.



Prom fundraiser gets off to a sweet start

ENTERPRISING Year 11 students have made a good start in fundraising for their prom.

The students have been selling hot chocolate and cakes during break-time to raise

funds for the end-of-year event.

Mrs El Khandari, Head of Year 11, said: "It has been lovely that everyone has pitched in – organising, baking and selling.

"Thank you to all who have contributed and to those who have bought or supported the events. Watch this space for more prom-related events throughout the year."



Boxing clever

BOXING lessons are packing a punch by encouraging students to keep fit and healthy.

Year 8 pugilists enjoyed a taster session where they learned the basics of boxing

including footwork, punches, defensive techniques, and stamina building.

Their enthusiasm for boxing has created a positive atmosphere, inspiring them to continue their fitness journey.



The plight of refugees

LITERARY students have discussed the hard-hitting themes surrounding refugees and displacement.

Year 8 have been studying Benjamin Zephaniah's novel 'Refugee Boy.'

They have been considering the role the media has on the public's perception of refugees and have written letters to newspaper editors asking them to stop their negative depiction of refugees and asylum seekers.

Discovering Hanukkah traditions

STUDENTS enjoyed learning about Hanukkah and its traditions as part of the celebrations unit.

They had the opportunity to explore the history and significance of the holiday.

To make their learning experience even more engaging, they also created their very own 3D dreidels.

The students then had the opportunity to spin them, adding a fun and interactive element to learning about the celebration of Hanukkah.

Ms Gahakwa said: "It was a great way for them to learn about the holiday's customs while getting creative and having fun."



Playground revamped

THE playground has received a glow-up, which has enhanced PE lessons and outdoor activities.

Tramlines were refreshed, which has had a positive impact on lessons – top marks all around!