



Connaught
School for Girls

Dyers Hall Road
Leytonstone
London E11 4AE

Headteacher — Alexander Silk, MA

seize the day

Friday 20th December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well; a Friday update as always, but a special letter this week as it is the end of term, and what a term it has been! I have attached the newsletter to give a run-through of some of the highlights that I may not have covered in my weekly updates.

Handball Team Shines in Borough Competition

This week, we are delighted to share the success of our handball team, who achieved an outstanding **2nd place in the Waltham Forest borough competition**. Competing in their very first tournament, the girls demonstrated exceptional teamwork, determination, and skill, representing Connaught School with pride. This remarkable achievement is a testament to their hard work and commitment. A huge well done to the team—you've made us all incredibly proud! We're looking forward to seeing what you can accomplish next.

Exciting FREE Christmas Activities for Young People – Organised by Leyton Orient Trust

We're excited to announce that Leyton Orient Trust offers a FREE programme this Christmas break for young people aged 8-14 who are in receipt of free school meals. The programme includes a variety of fun and engaging activities such as Multi-sports, Healthy Eating and Skill-Building Workshops, along with Youth Zone activities like Table Tennis, Games Consoles, and more. It's a great opportunity for young people to make new friends, have fun, and stay active during the holiday season! Hot, nutritious meals will also be provided each day. Check out the link for full details on all the exciting events: <https://eequ.org/experience/7132>

Uniform

Please ensure your child's name is clearly marked in her coat, especially if it is one of the 99% of black coats. Students occasionally pick up the wrong coat by mistake and having it named makes it so much easier to return to its rightful owner.

Pimple Patches - from the start of next term we will only allow clear, round pimple patches. Please do not use patches which are decorative e.g. coloured stars, Hello Kitty etc

Rewards

Achievement Points

Year 10 have retained their impressive lead with an incredible 6924 APs this term, well done to every student, they have all contributed to this total.

Salma (11F) has once again accrued the highest number of APs this week, well done!

Credits

KS3 students have been busy all term collecting credits in their diaries which are awarded for excellent work and effort. The grand totals this term:

Highest number of credits - Individual

Year 7 - Anabiya Adnan 7S - 323!

Year 8 - Eshal Kashif 8W - 393!

Year 9 - Amna Shakeel 9F - 297!

Highest number of credits - Tutor Group

Year 7 - 7S (4914)

Year 8 - 8S (2744)

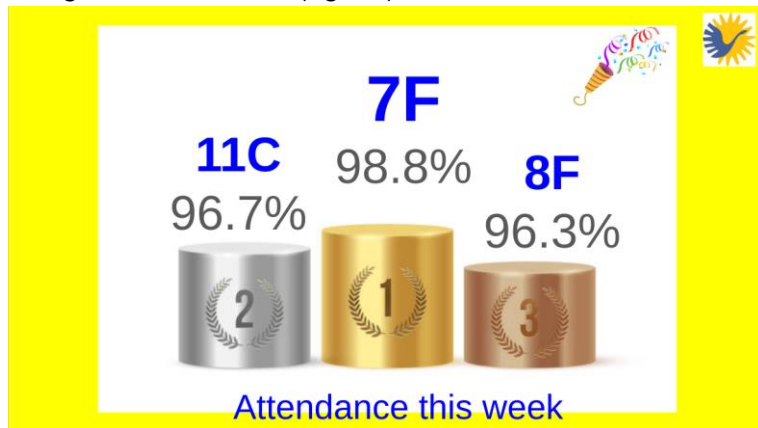
Year 9 - 9W (2221)

Postcards, vouchers and certificates will be handed out in Key Stage and Year Group assemblies in the new term.

Attendance

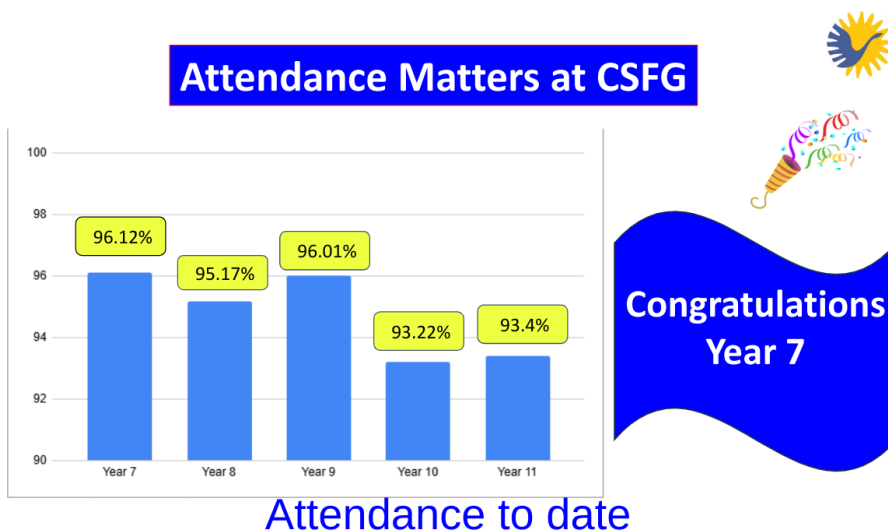
Tutor Group this week

Congratulations to 7F (again!) this week for excellent attendance!



Year groups this term

It has been a tight competition between year 7 and 9 for the highest attendance throughout the term - congratulations to Year 7 for squeezing into first place!



Christmas Lunch

This Monday, students had the opportunity to enjoy a Christmas dinner (with all the trimmings) at lunchtime. Here is a photo of some year 7 students enjoying their festive meal...



MSF Non uniform

Well done to the CSFG student Voice this term. They have been proactive in organising the charities to support over the academic year and have started by developing their own understanding of Medecin Sans Frontiere (MSF). A year 10 student describes this better:

A non-school uniform day was recently held at our school to raise money for Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), a global organisation that offers vital medical assistance in places impacted by natural disasters, disease outbreaks, and conflict. The concept was straightforward: in exchange for a pound to assist MSF's essential work, staff and students could wear something other than their uniforms for the day. The fact that MSF is an international charity that many people in our school, including myself, were previously unaware of was what made the day really memorable.

Everyone gathered to the event wearing their own clothes, ranging from casual clothing to vibrant pieces, creating a sense of excitement. In addition to raising funds, the week generated discussions about the difficulties faced by those in disaster areas and how charities like MSF offer hope in tragic circumstances.

To help us learn more, we were privileged to have a speaker from MSF share inspiring stories about their mission. All form groups saw a brief, captivating presentation that introduced students to the vital job that MSF performs, including reacting to disease outbreaks, helping communities after natural disasters, and providing emergency medical care. The cause seemed more immediate after hearing the speaker's first-hand stories. Many students left with a fresh understanding of the difficulties encountered by people in need and MSF's work. This day left an impression on our school community and I hope to fundraise towards this charity again.
Mia Bondzie

Winter Fair 2024

The PTA and the school organised CSFG's first Winter Fair to celebrate the end of the term. There was a wonderful selection of homemade goods and refreshments, which were sold at the event. Thank you to all the parents/carers, students and the staff who helped during the event. Congratulations to the Bake Off winners and the designs were quite incredible. The judges had a difficult time deciding, as the quality of the designs were very impressive. The raffle was watched with great anticipation and the winners enjoyed being able to scoop up a prize, which ranged from a new iPad to a sought after 'Paddington Bear' hardback. Well done to our year 9 musicians who have been rehearsing throughout this term. Thank you to Samim Patel and all our PTA for organising the event.

Friends of Connaught PTA would like to thank all the businesses listed below who supported our Winter Fair on 18th December 2024 by donating Raffle prizes, we raised a grand total of **£1451.00!**

Trading Places for Sponsorship and Top Raffle prize

J'adore Café (Leytonstone High Rd)

Yard sale Pizza

Franco Manca

Clip n Climb (Canary Wharf)

Brass + Bold (Local Handcrafted Jewellery maker, Elsa Gomez)

Hooksmith Print (Local Letter Press Art, Russel Frost)

Tesco Leytonstone (Community Champion Team)

Essence of Beauty (EOB, Leyton)

Blue Tit Hairdressers (Stratford Village)

And to all our parents who helped, sourced and donated prizes and supported our event by volunteering their time. Every little helps and we hope to continue with more fundraising to enrich the students. Samim Patel

Year 7 Annual Church Trip: A Day of Learning and Discovery

This week, our Year 7 students had the fantastic opportunity to visit St John's Church in Leytonstone, as part of their curriculum exploration of local history and religious celebrations. The trip proved to be an enriching experience, allowing our students to gain a deeper understanding of the church's architectural features, its historical significance, and its connection to the local community.

During their visit, the students worked through the key elements of the church's structure, learning about its unique features and the way they reflect the church's long history. They also explored the physical history of the building itself, from its architecture to its role in the changing landscape of Leytonstone over the centuries.

A festive highlight of the day was the Nativity Walk, where the students had the chance to reflect on the Christmas story through an interactive journey around the church. It was a wonderful way for them to connect with the church's role in seasonal celebrations.

The students also bravely climbed the bell tower, where they were guided by St John's Church's historical expert, who shared fascinating insights into the local area and its evolution. The view from the top of the tower provided a stunning perspective of Leytonstone, linking the past with the present in a meaningful way.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Reverend Liz and her incredible team at St John's Church for their warm hospitality, insightful guidance, and making this trip such a memorable and valuable experience for our Year 7 students. Their dedication to education and the community truly shone throughout the day.

Thank you again to St John's Church for your ongoing support and for providing such a rich, hands-on learning experience for our students. We look forward to seeing you again in the year!

About the church - by Elise Moore

The church trip was pretty nice! We went up the tower, had snacks, learnt about different stuff in the church, what different things are called and used for. It feels nice knowing other religions and learning more about my own.

I sometimes go to church with my family on Sundays. This visit made me feel like I had gone to church with my family.



Religious Education Department

Year 11 Borough Market Visit

On Tuesday, December 10, 2024 Year 11 Food Preparation and Nutrition students embarked on an exciting educational trip to Borough Market, one of London's most renowned food destinations. This visit was designed to inspire their Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) projects, focusing on the theme of "Takeaway Meals."

Please see the student report of the visit below.

Mrs Wallace

When I first heard about Borough Market, I had high expectations. Tucked away in the heart of London, this historic market is known for its incredible selection of food, and as a self-proclaimed foodie, I couldn't wait to dive in and experience it firsthand. The market lived up to every bit of its reputation and more, offering a true feast for the senses with its vibrant atmosphere and exceptional offerings. Let me take you through my unforgettable culinary journey at Borough Market.

First stop we made our way through some stalls which consisted of traditional and cultural food from different parts of the world.

From the traditional paella originated from Spain to the risotto from Italy



The workers there were very welcoming as they provided us with testers prior to purchasing the food. This was convenient for us as it gave us a wide range of choices and which would be the most suitable for our individual palates.

What truly sets Borough Market apart is not just the food but the atmosphere. The buzz of the crowd, the vibrant colors of fresh produce, the sounds of sizzling food, and the intoxicating aromas all combine to create an experience that's about so much more than just eating. It's an immersive journey that makes you feel part of something bigger—a community of food lovers, artisans, and traders all sharing their passion for quality ingredients and incredible flavors.

As I walked through the market, I found myself stopping to chat with the friendly vendors, picking up local , and trying samples of olives and cheeses. The market isn't just a place to eat—it's a place to connect with.

After spending the afternoon at Borough Market, I can say with certainty that this is a place every food lover should visit at least once. The variety and quality of food are unparalleled, and the experience itself is something truly special. Whether you're looking for artisanal cheeses, international street food, or indulgent desserts, Borough Market has it all. It's a place that invites you to eat, explore, and savor every moment.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Mrs Wallace and the support staff for organizing this trip) and making such an extraordinary day for us. I'll definitely be back soon.

Aicha Guettou 11W



I would like to wish all of our families a very happy and relaxing holiday season. I hope you enjoy a well-deserved break and have the chance to spend quality time together over the Christmas holidays. We look forward to seeing all students refreshed and ready to learn in the New Year.

Students will return to school in the new year on Monday 6th January at the usual time. Please ensure they arrive on time and ready for a strong start to the new term.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Silk'.

Mr Silk
Headteacher