



Connaught
School for Girls

Dyers Hall Road
Leytonstone
London E11 4AE

Headteacher — Alexander Silk, MA

seize the day

Friday 14th March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to provide you with an update regarding the ongoing ballot for strike action by members of the National Education Union (NEU). As previously mentioned, the ballot is set to close on Friday, 14th March, and we expect to know the outcome by the beginning of next week.

Since my last letter, I have continued to engage with the NEU's representatives in an effort to understand their concerns and explore ways to prevent the strike. At present I have still not been given additional details beyond what was on the first letter from NEU. I have arranged to meet with the union representative on Monday, 17th March and again to meet with ACAS for further talks on 24th March.

I have also taken the opportunity to reiterate to staff our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and our zero-tolerance policy towards any form of prejudice or discrimination. We remain focused on ensuring that all staff and students experience a positive learning and working environment at Connaught School for Girls. You may be aware of strike action taking place in other local secondary schools, relating to performance-related pay. I want to reassure you that this issue does not affect Connaught School for Girls. As we are an academy, we are not required to follow the local authority's policy on this matter, and we have already removed performance-related pay from our staff appraisal process, which the local authority may adopt from the next academic year.

I understand that the prospect of strike action, with potential disruption to your child's education, may be concerning for you, particularly for our Year 11 students who are preparing for their GCSE exams. Please rest assured that we are doing everything we can to resolve these matters constructively and to avoid any disruption to learning.

I will continue to keep you updated as developments unfold, and I hope to be able to provide further information soon. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Silk
Headteacher