



## A great summer for staff and pupils

Congratulations to our GCSE students for a fantastic set of results this year, improving on last year. We wish them every success for the next stage of their careers and we are very pleased that many have decided to continue their education at LaSWAP.

Our congratulations also go to Ms Spillar and Ms Hugo who got married over the summer and to Mr Wharton whose wife gave birth to a lovely first son – Luca George.

## New Routines

The boys returned to school after the break refreshed and ready for the start of the new school year. Please encourage your son to make sure he arrives on time each morning – he should be at school by 8.30am ready for registration at 8.35am. Any boys arriving after 8.35am will have to serve a detention at lunchtime that day. It is important that good habits are laid down for life and boys need to be clear that punctuality is important – whether to school or to a medical appointment or indeed to catch a train.

## House News

The start of term has seen a House football competition running every lunchtime and the planning of some other great events we hope the school community will get involved in:

### The Great Ellis Bake Off!

The annual House Bake Off competition will be taking place on **THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER** in the school hall. Please encourage boys to get involved and contribute to their House effort by baking cakes and helping to sell them.. We are hoping that it will be as successful an event as last year and welcome any support -all proceeds will be donated to Macmillan Cancer Research.

### House Elections

House representative elections **MUST** take place this week. A short powerpoint presentation will be shown in tutor period and elections will take place by Friday. The outcomes of all the elections will be announced during House assemblies during the week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> September.

### Staff Quiz

This year's House staff quiz will take place at the end of INSET day on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September. WESPA (The William Ellis Parents' Association) will kindly be providing refreshments throughout the evening from 4pm. We are hoping that many of the staff join in the fun event which will be gleefully hosted again this year by the legendary quizmaster, Mr Lee, Deputy Headteacher.

## Clubs

Most lunchtime and after school clubs are now up and running.. Boys will be advised of the clubs running in their tutor periods and more details for parents' information will be posted on the school website. Please do encourage your sons to try out what's on offer to see if there are clubs he is interested in.



## Extra-Curricular Music Lessons

Instrumental lessons start this week for boys in Years 8 – 11 and for Year 7 next week.

Boys taking lessons should be reminded that their timetables will now be posted on the music noticeboard on the back staircase leading up to room 48.

A reminder that the music practice rooms are supervised over lunchtimes for extra practice time and that pianists can sign up to use the Steinway in the hall over lunchtime by seeing Mr Forbat or Mr Singleton to get more information and sign up.

Choir started on Thursday and will be run by Mr Singleton every Thursday in Room 48 from 1.30-2pm. All boys (and staff) are welcome.



## William Ellis 5k Run – 2016

One of the first events of the new academic year is the annual 5k run.

All boys in years 7, 8 and 9 will take part.

The event takes place on Hampstead Heath during the school day.

Dates are as follows:

Year 9 – Thursday 6 October

Year 8 – Thursday 13 October

Year 7 – Thursday 20 October

The fund-raising focus chosen by the boys is Camping Equipment for use at The Mill, Duke of Edinburgh etc.

There will be individual and House prizes for those who run the furthest distance and collect the most sponsorship money.

**Please make a note of the dates. We will need parents to volunteer to help out on the day and of course to come along and support the boys.**



## Message from Emma White, School Counsellor

Days: Wed, Thur, Friday

[ewhite53.202@lgflmail.org](mailto:ewhite53.202@lgflmail.org)

The Counselling Service is in William Ellis School to provide accessible emotional support to those students who are vulnerable or struggling to manage school or home life. Counselling offers a confidential space for students to share thoughts and feelings with someone trained to listen, empathise and explore further the issues they may be facing. Many students, and perhaps particularly boys, can be reluctant to share difficult experiences and find it a relief to have the opportunity to get things off their chest. Sharing problems early can help prevent them having a lasting impact and contributes towards resilience. *(Half of those with lifetime mental health problems first experience symptoms by the age of 14. Department for Health, 2011)*

Counselling offers the time and space to step back and reflect on what is driving certain behaviours and find different options for coping with stressful emotions. This process happens through talking, as well as using art materials to aid expression, and through building a trusting therapeutic relationship. Together we can put feelings into the context of students', often complex, histories and life circumstances, something that takes time and sensitivity to approach.

The sessions are generally directed by the student, but at the start we do define goals that we are working to in order to bring focus and to measure progress. The information that school staff and parents provide about the student informs this discussion. Counselling is most effective when school and home are searching together for a shared understanding of the students' needs. I do try to give feedback whilst also keeping the need for confidentiality in mind, so please do ask if you want to know generally how things are progressing for a student.

Referrals can be around a wide range of issues and can come from any part of the school or from parents who have a concern. Students are also welcome to self-refer. Often children and young people signal their distress through a change in behaviour, relationships or attitude to learning. If you are worried about a student's emotional wellbeing please feel free to email me or talk to your son's Head of Year who can raise it at the weekly Pastoral meetings. There is some limit to capacity and referrals do need to be thought about and prioritized. Students with very high or complex support needs may require a referral on to Mental Health Services.

I hope that this helps to explain what happens in the counselling room, to demystify it a little.

## Camden "Moving on Event" for parents of Years 5 and 6

Thursday saw four school ambassadors – Roko, Matteo from Year 8 and Owen and Gabriel from Year 10 join Mr White, Mr Altmann, Ms Ozkaya and Ms McWilliam at the Camden Centre for a special event, with all Camden secondary schools represented, to meet prospective parents and tell them about our school. The boys talked non-stop to families from 3.30-6.30pm about their experiences at WES and ably answered a mass of questions about the school. They really shone out and staff received very good feedback from families and gave them lots of compliments.



The school will be hosting an Open Evening on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September from 6pm and then Open Mornings on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October from 9am. Please encourage anyone you know with sons in Years 5 and 6 to come along and see the school.

We will also need lots of student to volunteer as ambassadors for the Open Evening. Please look out for a letter coming home asking your permission for your son to be involved.

## Event for Parents and Carers to help support your son's aspirations

**October 4<sup>th</sup> 9.30-1.00 London Irish Centre, Camden Square**

### Highlights

- Charles Deforges a leading education expert will talk about how parents can help raise their children's aspirations
- Workshops with ideas to support children's learning
- How to make sure after school tutors are high quality and safe
- **lunch is provided**
- **A crèche is provided**

All welcome - please contact [Saleka.khatun@camden.gov.uk](mailto:Saleka.khatun@camden.gov.uk) for more information or call 020 7974 7307.

## New City Year Team

We welcome a new City Year Team this year led by Ms Martin-Ojo one of the team members at the school last year.

They will be running a breakfast club Monday – Thursday in the dining hall at 8am and homework club Monday – Thursday, 3.15-4.15pm in Room 10a.

They are currently overseeing football in the upper playground at lunchtimes. The rota is:

Monday – Year 7  
Tuesday – Year 9  
Wednesday – Year 10  
Thursday – Year 9

## Lost Property?

The first couple of weeks of term has seen our lost property cupboard fill up with unclaimed items. Can we please ask you son to make sure that all clothing is clearly labelled (a permanent marker pen can be used for this) to make sure we can team up a piece of lost property with its rightful owner. The boys need to be reminded – especially Year 7s - that they can't leave items in classrooms/form rooms and must either carry everything with them at all times or use a locker.



NEXT WEEK:

**Thursday 23 September**

Governors' Personnel & Resources Committee: 5.30pm

**Tuesday 27 September**

Year 10 Speak Out Challenge

WESPA Meeting, 6pm

**Thu 29 September**

Camden Coding Challenge

Year 8 & 9 Rugby Tournament

Secondary Transfer Open Evening: 6pm

**Friday 30 September**

**INSET DAY – school closed to students**

**Monday 3 October**

Year 12 Meningitis Vaccinations (catch up)

**Monday 3 – 7 October**

Jamies Farm Trip

**4-7 October**

Open Mornings, 9am

**Thursday 6 October**

Year Fun Run – 5K Challenge

**Friday 7 October**

School Photographs – Year 7 & 10 and new students



**W/C 26/9/16**

*Extra-curricular music lessons begin for Year 7 and new music students*

*Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Sept:*

*Tue 27<sup>th</sup> Sept: Year 10 Speak Out Challenge; WESPA meeting (6pm)*

*Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Sept: LaSWAP team meetings; Year 8 Information Evening (tbc)*

*Thu 29<sup>th</sup> Sept: Camden Coding Challenge; SLT Detention (IJO); Year 9 & 10 Rugby tournament; **Open Evening** (for Year 7 2017-18) –*

*Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Sept: INSET day (across LaSWAP); Staff Quiz **SCHOOL CLOSED TO STUDENTS***

**Coming Up:** 3-7<sup>th</sup> Oct – BTEC Applied Science work exp; Jamie's Farm Trip; 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct – Y12 meningitis vaccinations (catch-up); 4<sup>th</sup> Oct – **Open Morning**; 5<sup>th</sup> Oct – **Open Morning**; 6<sup>th</sup> Oct – **Open Morning**; 6<sup>th</sup> form Paris trip (to 8<sup>th</sup> Oct) tbc; Y9 5K Challenge; Governors' SIMP committee mtg; 7<sup>th</sup> October – School Photographs (Y7 & Y10 and any new staff and students)