

# Summer Term 2021 Newsletter No.2



Get in touch: [williamellispa@gmail.com](mailto:williamellispa@gmail.com) Twitter: @WESparentsassoc • Instagram: [william\\_ellis\\_school\\_pa](https://www.instagram.com/william_ellis_school_pa)

**William Ellis School Parents Association (WESPA) welcomes all parents, carers, teachers, staff and friends of the school. WESPA plays an active part in school life at William Ellis and it's a great way to get involved with the school, get to know each other and join in with some fun social events that help fundraise for WES.**

**Co-Chairs:** Fiona (Yr9) & Max (Yr9)

**Treasurer:** Azeb (Yr9)

**Secretary:** Juliet (Yr9)

**Vice Secretary:** Zehra (Yr10)

**Cupboard Lead:** Hayley (Yr10)

**Music Lead:** Claire (Yr10)

**5K Challenge Lead:** Grace (Yr9, Yr12)

**Quiz Lead:** Zehra (Yr10)

**Petty Cash:** Julie (Yr8)

**Uniform:** Linda (Yr8)

**Newsletter:** Nick (Yr8, Yr12) + Team

**Raffle Lead:** VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

## Dear WES Parents and Carers

Welcome to Issue No.2 of the WESPA newsletter. There certainly has been an awful lot going on: William Ellis School welcomed back the students for the first time in months, WESPA hosted our first WESPA Nights In, where the Year 7 Boys enjoyed a special Crystal Maze event; and Izzy Jones joined us for our second WESPA Talks.

The sunshine has been a welcome arrival after such a bleak winter, and of course lockdown is officially over. We think there is a lot to be positive about!

As ever, we are always open to new volunteers, connections, and a chat. If you have something that you think would be of interest to the WESPA Community, please get in touch, we'd love to hear from you.

MAX & FIONA (WESPA Co-chairs)

## Spotlight

### Stuart Taylor

Parent Governor

Hi, I'm Stuart Taylor. My partner and I have a son in Year 9, the youngest of my three.

Professionally, I'm currently involved in Systemic Constellations Work (a form of psychotherapy), organisa-



tional consulting and Decolonial activism. I am an Aikido sensei, with experience in teaching Qi Gong.

As a parent governor leading on Equalities and Wellbeing, I am focused on issues such as cultural diversity, male identities, cultural inclusion and the benefits of creative and collaborative learning. I want William Ellis to positively reflect the diverse range of cultural and ethnic heritages present across the WES community. I see my role as being a champion of diversity

and I want our sons to gain a well-rounded education in a safe and nurturing environment that cultivates emotional literacy, and pride in their self-defined identities. I'd be happy to hear from you to discuss how we can work together to support these ambitions as a community.

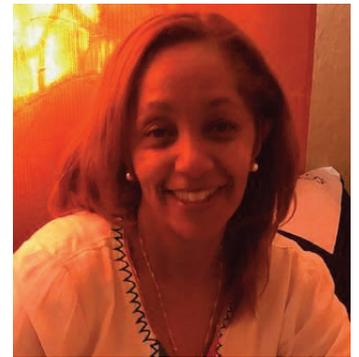
Socially, I enjoy camping, international cinema, wilderness experience, current affairs, jazz, electronica and home cooking. I am inspired by nature, my partner, my children and my martial arts practices.

### Azeb Tesfaye

WESPA Treasurer & Trustee / William Ellis HR & Finance Officer

I'VE BEEN Finance/HR Officer for William Ellis for 8 years. With my son eventually joining the school in Year 7, it was then I became familiar with WESPA. I grew to appreciate how the team works in strongly supporting the staff and students of William Ellis.

I joined WESPA to contribute in any form, using the skills I have learnt over my career. As WESPA's Treasurer, I serve alongside a very organised team run by dedicated



parents as we each play our part in attempting to make a difference to the school collective.

I like listening to music, dancing, walking, group sports like Tai-chi and Zumba, a bit of reading and, when the weather permits it, I enjoy a spot of gardening. With music and dance being personal favourites, an ideal opportunity of fostering community within such a multicultural school as WES, would be to restart the 'International Evening' events. It was one of the most popular events in the past. I enjoy learning and exploring other cultures not through just conversation and travel, but by the sounds of their music, the colours of their garments and the flavours of food. This bringing of togetherness is the cultivation of community that I'd look to WESPA to build. ■

## Get in touch...

Email:  
[williamellispa@gmail.com](mailto:williamellispa@gmail.com)

Twitter:  
[@WESparentsassoc](https://twitter.com/WESparentsassoc)

Instagram:  
[william\\_ellis\\_school\\_pa](https://www.instagram.com/william_ellis_school_pa)

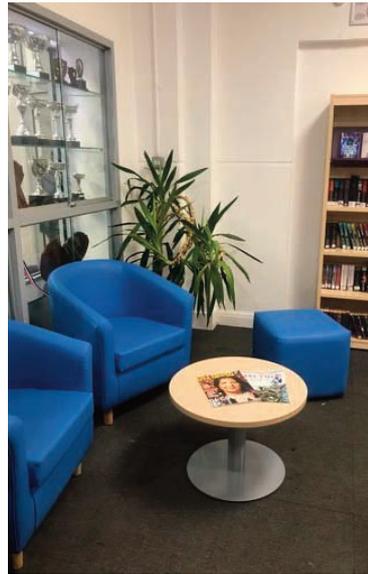
# What is WESPA?

WESPA is a charity, run by parents, carers and friends of William Ellis School. WESPA is open to all in our school community, and is a fun way to get involved in school life.

- We help raise extra funding for the school, to provide resources for the boys.
- We run social events for parents and children, to help facilitate the growth of our school community.
- We encourage as many people as we can to get involved, to create stronger bonds and ties between home and school.

Recently, WESPA has raised money towards the new library set up; new books, seating and resources for the boys.

We have raised nearly £30,000 to help the school provide laptops to those who needed support throughout lockdown and beyond – and we are now raising extra money towards the new basketball hoops as requested



by the Student Council. Our lovely hub of parents and carers volunteer to help out at events, such as the Year



7 Transition days, held earlier in May.

We sold good-condition second hand uniforms, met some of the new parents and September's Year 7 cohort of students, and provided another insight into William Ellis school life.

■ If you haven't been to a WESPA meeting yet, if you think it's not for you, or you're just not sure how you can help, you can always email [williamellispa@gmail.com](mailto:williamellispa@gmail.com) to find out more about us and how you can get involved.

## Form reps

Each Year 7 & Year 8 form group has a rep who helps communicate and keep other parents in the know via the form WhatsApp groups.

Your reps are:

**YEAR 7 REPS:** Ceri 7B; Coco 7F; Amelie 7K; Holly 7L; Natasha 7W

**YEAR 8 REPS:** Nick 8B; Julie 8F; Ri 8K; Vicky 8L; Donna 8W

If you would like to join the WhatsApp group for your year and form, please send your name, year/form and mobile number to: [williamellispa@gmail.com](mailto:williamellispa@gmail.com) with the subject "WhatsApp Group".

## Calendar

### March

**Friday 21st May:** Night in with WESPA (Online Event) for Year 7 & 8

**Wednesday 16th June:** WESPA Talks: Supporting your child's mental health

**Tuesday 13th July:** WESPA Digital Online Meeting, 7.30pm

**Thursday 22nd July:** Last day of term

## New PE equipment

We are asking for voluntary donations towards new PE equipment for the summer, helping students to get active at breaktimes.

The boys have raised just over £390 themselves through 'non-uniform day' but need another £488 to help buy new basketball hoops for the playground.

■ Virgin Money Giving, William Ellis School Parents Association:

[https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/donation-web/charity?charityId=1011368&stop\\_mobi=yes](https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/donation-web/charity?charityId=1011368&stop_mobi=yes)

## WESPA Talks part 2...



A HUGE thank you to all the parents and carers that joined us for the second instalment of 'WESPA Talks - In Conversation with Izzy Jones' last month.

It was such a pleasure to host our new head teacher, and to get a chance to know her as a person. Her vision for the school and our boys is exciting, and we wish her the best of luck.



**NEXT WESPA TALK:** Supporting your child's mental health (16th June, 7.30pm)

We have invited clinical psychologist and WES parent Annika Clark to give our next WESPA Talk on adolescent mental health. It's a great chance to get some advice and tips on how to support your child and to ask questions about identifying and dealing with adolescent mental health issues. More to follow.

## Events & Activities

# WESPA Nights In

OUR first WESPA Nights In kicked off with an online Crystal Maze event, exclusively for the Year 7 boys. Feedback was so positive, and we heard through the grapevine that a few friendships were formed over the pre-return to school ice-breaker!

Join us for our next WESPA Nights In on Friday 21 May with an online SAS Wing Chun taster session. Bring a bottle of water, a can-

do attitude and be ready learn a few things about Martial Arts that might surprise you! This event is for Year 7 and Year 8 students. Parents are welcome to join in too!

■ To book your place, please email [williamellispa@gmail.com](mailto:williamellispa@gmail.com) quoting WESPA NIGHTS IN and the students name, year and form. The joining link will be sent by email nearer the time (please check spam).



## Gear up for Bike Week: May 30 to June 5, 2021



JOIN thousands of people all across the UK and enjoy the simple pleasure of riding a bike. Let's make the world better by bike. This year's theme is health and wellbeing.

Take part in The Big Bike Ride on Sunday 30 May – any kind of cycle ride counts no

matter how far you go or what your motivation is, solo or with friends and family.

Log your journey as part of the World's Biggest Bike Ride:

<https://www.cyclinguk.org/bikeweek/pledge-to-ride>

Do share photos of your bike ride with WESPA!

### Calling all parents and carers!

PLEASE share your skills and

expertise with us by filling in our skills audit. From helping with ideas and events to supporting school careers days, work experience placements and more, your skills are invaluable!

The audit is for William Ellis only, and will not be shared with any third parties. It is optional, and

### We Need Your Help



you do not have to fill it in, but if you do, it will help us strengthen the relationship between the students, teachers and parents/carers. You never know what you might be missing by not being involved!

■ Link:

<https://forms.gle/1kW4uKyU6gK4RHv99>

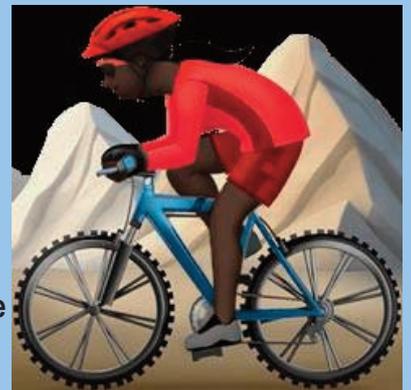
## Free Cycle Skills Sessions

Camden Cycle Skills teaches essential bike riding skills for all ages and abilities,

from beginner and intermediate group courses and open community cycling, to individual training on busy roads. Anyone who lives, works or studies in Camden can register for free:

[cycletraining@camden.gov.uk](mailto:cycletraining@camden.gov.uk)

<https://www.camden.gov.uk/register-for-a-course>



# Working weekend at The Mill

## Henry Year 7

MY experience of The Mill was great fun. I woke up super early to get there in time for breakfast.

The village scenery at Forest Green is lovely and idyllic. On arrival we were greeted by Alice and Sam who run The Mill.

We were brought coffee, tea and bacon sandwiches that were delicious and a great start to the day. My friend Rene and his family also joined for the day – it was great to spend time together outside school.

Our task was to dig-up any bramble roots in an area of space that will become an outdoor kitchen. It took a long time to do, but it was finally done and just in time for elevenses.

Afterwards, we made a bug hotel. This involved stacking logs and filling the gaps with moss and sticks. We painted a sign for it so guests of The Mill will know it is not just a pile of logs! I made three



signs in all – this bit was fun.

Our day at The Mill was not only about work (at least not for us boys). There was also a games room (that was unfortunately closed due to Covid-19), a football pitch and an assault course including a home-made zipline.

I recommend a working weekend at The Mill to everyone.

## Pierre Year 8

Hi, I'm Pierre from Year 8.

On Saturday I went to the Mill with my family to help make a vegetable garden. It was great and I had a really good time.

There's so much greenery and it's very beautiful. The grounds

have a pond and an area where there are tightropes to walk on.

There were other families and boys from the school and we had a great lunch.



Overall, I had great time and I am looking forward to going there again.

## Max WESPA Co-chair

WHAT an absolutely beautiful weekend to head out of London to The Mill for the Working Weekend, and a perfect way to end lockdown.

Having never been to The Mill, and not really understanding it to be more than a place where the boys stay for school trips, I was completely blown away by the grounds,

Alice and Sam, who run the place, and the fact that it's open for private hire. (Yes, you can rent The Mill for your own endeavors, and believe me, it's worth every penny for the ten acres of green, the rope course, the ponds, and the general beautiful surroundings!)

The Mill is a charity organisation, and runs completely on income raised via the rental of the grounds. The Working Weekend was

a welcome respite from the day to day, and mucking in to pull out weeds, create bug hotels and meet with other parents and students was a wonderful way to be a part of the WES community.

I would highly recommend volunteering!

■ **The June Working Weekend has had to be postponed so our next Working Weekend is planned for 8, 9, 10th October 2021. Find out more here: <https://themill-forestgreen.co.uk/volunteers>**

