

William Ellis School News Update

Summer Term - 24th May 2024



Welcome to this week's newsletter. We are pleased and proud to announce that we have been credited with the British Council International School Award, celebrating the strength of provision in our global approach to education, including the excellent work of our Modern Foreign Languages department and the wider partnership work with other schools. This is an important reflection of the school's ethos, and the value placed on global citizenship in the William Ellis vision.

Attendance Update

Congratulations to Year 7 and 9 students who have made a particular improvement in their attendance and punctuality this week, with 330 students in year 7 to 10 having 100% attendance. Thank you for your support in ensuring that students are in school on time every day. We also have the vast majority of students in our Attendance 100 Club on track for rewards at the end of the 10-week period. It is important that as we go into the summer term, all students are in school every day up to and including Wednesday 24th July, including on days when there are visits or special events such as sports day.

Late Start on Monday 3rd June for most students

On Monday 3rd June we will have a late start for students, with morning registration at 9.35am. New timetables will be issued on this day. This will enable all students in Year 9 to start their GCSE courses smoothly, recognising the importance of this transition.

There are a small number of Year 10 students with mock employment interviews on that day, starting earlier. These will still take place as planned and these students have had their appointments confirmed by email today. Therefore, the times of the day on Monday are:

8:50-9:50am - a small number of Year 10 students will be coming into school for mock interviews

9:35am - morning registration for all students

9:50am - Year 9 assembly, period 2 lessons for all other students

10:50am onwards - all students will follow the normal routines and times of the day.

Thank to the volunteers, including parents and carers, who are giving up their time to provide the mock interviews on Monday.

As there will be a small number of timetable changes for students on Monday, please check their timetable on the "My Child At School" app on the Sunday evening to ensure that they have the correct equipment.

New Uniform Orders

A reminder that new blazers and/or compulsory items of PE kit for September must be ordered from SWI Schoolwear. Please ensure orders are placed by 1st August to ensure delivery before the start of Autumn Term.

The SWI website has a new digital sizing tool to make ordering easier for families.

There will be a date after half term for a blazer fitting opportunity in school for Year 9 students who will soon need to purchase their KS4 blazer, and also for a second hand uniform sale. We will share more details about this in due course.

A reminder that the uniform policy, including what students are allowed to wear in the summer term, is available on the school website.

Year 8 Messages from Ms Mercier Peart

We are already half way through the summer Term and getting ready for our end of year exams taking place after half term from Wednesday 5th to the 14th June. Year 8 students will be receiving their timetable in due course.

In tutorial recently, the boys have learnt to make a revision timetable and to put a bit of time aside every day for their revision. Each teacher will put work on satchel one regarding revision, work that is also taking place in class.

Once the exams are over we are getting ready, with great anticipation, for our summer camp in July, at the Mill in the lovely Surrey Hills.

I would like to congratulate all the boys who are on 100% attendance and on top of the positive points in our reward system, and take this opportunity to congratulate Ms Holderer and 8L who are ahead in the summer quiz competition. Keep going!

Some WES alumni came back to WES last Friday to share their experience during our careers workshop with Future First. It was lovely to see ex-students (young men now) explaining some of the further education and career paths you have out there and the importance of doing well in school. Thank you to all of them. A few photos from the event are included here.



I hope you all have a good half term and a bit of sun!

Our School's International School Status



International School Award

Ms Rodgers, Head of MFL writes:

We are delighted that WES has been awarded International School Foundation Status by The British Council in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom.

The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life and work in today's world.

It encourages and supports schools to develop:

- An international ethos embedded throughout the school
- A whole school approach to international work
- Collaborative curriculum-based work with a number of partner schools
- Year-round international activity
- Involvement of the wider community

William Ellis's international work includes hosting French, Spanish and German language assistants, running a Mandarin, Arabic and foreign film club, taking students on residential trips abroad and day trips to the BFI institute in London for immersive workshops in the target language. The school also hosts international students. In February 2024 a German Year 10 student spent two days at William Ellis as part of his school work experience and the MFL department will also be hosting a French student in June.

We will be striving to continue to develop the work in this enriching area and hope to progress to Intermediate level and eventually to International School Award Accreditation in years to come.



International School Award

Certificate

This is to certify that

William Ellis School

has achieved

Foundation level
Introducing internationalism

Scott McDonald
Chief Executive, British Council



Ski Trip 2024

Mr Altmann, Assistant Headteacher, writes:

Back to Ischgl (Austria) and Samnaun (Switzerland)!

Having visited this area of the Alps back in 2019, I decided that we should definitely return and explore some more. It was great to be back in a German speaking part of Europe, though coping with the local Austrian and Swiss dialects was a little tricky even for me!



WES students with their instructors

I have always found cross border skiing rather fascinating; the food, architecture and language (or in this case dialects) can change from one valley to the next. Though you no longer have to ski through a turnstile and show your passport to a serious looking border guard, as I did as a boy!

The Föhn wind was whipping through this part of the Alps at the time, which caused some disruption, but boys and staff thoroughly enjoyed the trip regardless.

I could go on...but I think I'll let the boys take over from here,

Donnie and Otis in 7B write:

Our ski trip to Austria and Switzerland at the start of the Easter break was incredible!

The main highlight was definitely going out of our comfort zones, seeing how it was my (Donnie's) first time skiing, and how Otis did a 'black run' for the first time. Our ski instructors helped us improve and refine our skills. The ski resort was huge, spanning two countries! There was a wide range of slopes for all skill levels, I even managed to do a red run! The accommodation was very nice, too.

Aside from the skiing, we did many activities. Such as swimming and bowling. Our hotel rooms were very nice, we had lots of space and a storage area. We also watched a movie and ate pizza (which was delicious) in a pizzeria right next door to our hotel!

Our favourite activity, apart from the skiing of course, was the bowling because it was the Austrian version, where you had to knock down all the pins first. Our ski equipment was good quality and had lots of different sizes. We were very organised when getting on the coach to Isgall.

Overall it was an amazing experience where we got to spend time with our friends and learn how to ski and how to improve!



Snowball fight!



Our lovely pool



Mr Altmann in Austria and Mr Levitt in Switzerland!



Austrian bowling

Year 10 Art and Graphics 'Cabinet of Curiosities' Project

Ms Kendall, Art and Graphics Teacher, writes:

In partnership with Lauderdale House our very talented Year 10 Art and Graphics students have been taking part in a project inspired by nature and by the eccentric collections of former Lauderdale resident, James Yates. This is the second year that our students, along with Year 10 students from Parliament Hill School, have collaborated with Lauderdale House on this project.

Students have sculpted clay designs based on the raw natural materials from the grounds of Lauderdale House and have worked with wax to create moulds for bronze pieces which will soon be cast. They have also created gelli printworks and work in Sumi ink.

The work will be displayed as part of the Highgate Festival between 8th-30th June. Please visit the exhibition at Lauderdale House next month if you can.





Year 7 and 8 Science Competition



Ms Cockcroft, Science Teacher, writes:

Calling all budding naturalists in Years 7 and 8!

The Science department is running a competition. To enter, you need to download the Seek app by Inaturalist (free) and open the Challenges. These involve using your smartphone to identify species of plant, insect, fungi, etc. There will be a certificate for the top ten challenges completed for each year group and a mystery science prize for the top 3.

The competition will close in mid July. Students will need to show their challenges to their Science teacher that week to be entered.

Free and low-cost half-term holiday activities for children

During next week's half term break families can find free and low-cost sports, arts, play and youth activities near them on the Camden Rise website.

Camden Summer University

Camden Summer University means young people can stay safe, have fun, learn something new, make new friends and have something useful to show when applying for university, apprenticeships or work. They can choose from nearly 70 free courses in arts, media, fashion, sport, cookery, work and life skills at prestigious venues including the British Museum, the British Library, Central School of Speech and Drama and London Zoo. It's free to enrol for students aged 13-19 who live or go to school Camden. The programme will run from Thursday 25 July to Friday 23 August 2024. Check the website from 5 June onwards to view courses - bookings open on 17 June. You can also download the Camden Summer University 2024 leaflet.

Camden Moving on to Secondary School Event – 13 June

Parents and carers of children in current primary school Years 4 and 5 can find out more about Camden secondary schools and how to apply at the Council's annual Moving On event which is being held at the prestigious Francis Crick Institute in King's Cross. The Camden Moving on event is taking place on Thursday 13 June, from 4.15 to 6.45pm. There are still some places available. This is a great opportunity for parents and carers whose children are starting secondary school in either September 2025 or September 2026.

Meet the Parents forums

Meet the Parents are running some June 2024 events for parents of primary pupils who are moving up to secondary school, allowing parents and carers to ask frank questions from other families whose children currently attend Camden secondary schools.

The MTP events, held at local primary schools in June, are:

- 4 June - Kentish Town C of E Primary School from 6.30pm
- 11 June - Fitzjohn's Primary School from 6.30pm
- 18 June - Yerbury Primary School (Islington borough) from 6.30pm
- 19 June - Brookfield Primary School from 6.30pm.

If you are interested in becoming a MTP volunteer to share your family's experience of William Ellis please let us know via admin@williamellis.camden.sch.uk and we can pass on your details.

Parental Support Programme at The Brandon Centre

A reminder that The Brandon Centre's 'Love and Limits' programme is open to Camden and Islington parents/carers of teenagers aged 12-16 years old. A leaflet about this programme was attached to last week's Attendance Newsletter email, or to find out more about this programme please see the Brandon Centre's website.

The Brandon Centre will also be holding a

Free 2 hour online workshop on Tuesday 4 June 10:00-12:00 for parents of children aged between 5 – 17 years, to help parents:

- Make mealtimes enjoyable
- Setting healthy boundaries
- Understanding emotional eating
- Helping children and young people to have a healthy relationship with food and so much more.

Camden Clean Air Cycle Ride

This event is an inclusive, non-competitive bike ride, open to all riders regardless of experience. The event aims to unite the community in celebration of cycling, cleaner air, and the vibrant sights of London. This year marks a milestone as the event rebrands from the Camden Clean Air Cycle Ride to the London Clean Air Cycle Ride, ahead of the launch of the London Clean Air Initiative.

Camden aims to **encourage sustainable and active travel**, and has designed a route that encompasses cycle lanes and quiet streets around the Boroughs of Camden, Westminster, and Islington to demonstrate how **cycling is safe and**

accessible.

Camden are committed to making the cycle ride more accessible every year, in the belief that cycling is for everyone. For any riders that prefer to be guided, they can book a marshalled ride at no additional cost. More confident riders can opt for a self-guided ticket and ride at their own pace. Thanks to partner *Forest* (aka *HumanForest*), free e-bikes will be available to pre-book. This ensures that those who don't own a bike, or are less able to cycle long distances can still join the ride. Camden are also collaborating with fellow local not-for-profit, Your Bike Project, to provide free bike hire for those in receipt of benefits.

Details:

When: 29th June, 2024 at 10:00 (departures from 10:00am to 12:00pm)

Where: Start and Finish line will be at Granary Square, King Cross

Route: Click here to see the 2024 Route

Free tickets and bike hire available for people on benefits and UC (please email vpensabene@camdencleanair.org)

Free e-bike hire on a first come, first served basis

Tickets are available at <http://lcacycleride2024.eventbrite.co.uk/>

This weeks' WESPA Round-Up

WESPA Round Up | Get your free tickets now for International Eve!

Dear families,

It was great to come together with fellow parents at our meeting on Monday - so many lovely ideas and, I believe, our first outdoor meeting, held by the new pond in the setting evening sun. Thank you to everybody who contributed to WESPA Wednesday this week. It always brings forth amazing smiles around the school and is very much appreciated by the wonderful staff of WES. There is a lot of happiness in the school and the ever more inventive reasons our sons use to attempt to be eligible for a staff biscuit or chocolate is hilarious!

International Evening 2024 - get your free ticket now!

Please join us for WES International Evening 2024 - an evening where we celebrate our cultures together. There will be music, poetry, delicious food, activities, a fun quiz and fantastic prizes kindly donated by our local businesses. All families and friends are very welcome.

The event will take place in the WES Sports Hall on Thursday 20th June 2024 from 5-7.30pm and entry is FREE. Sign up for your ticket [here](#) and you will be automatically entered into our grand prize draw. There are some amazing prizes including a £100 hamper from local restaurant Rosella, vouchers from Bistro Laz, Gail's Bakery, Roni's, Theo's Hair Salon and also newly reopened local pub the Duke of St Albans who have offered two £50 vouchers. Wow!

Don't forget to sign up!

<https://www.ticketebo.co.uk/wespa/international-24>

WESPA Newsletter - May 2024

Aside from these weekly updates, WESPA also makes a half termly newsletter. This brings together news, pictures, stories and interviews with boys, staff and parents to give us parents an insight to what is going on at school. There is much to celebrate and enjoy. Check out the May 2024 edition

here: <https://sites.google.com/view/williamellispa/news> I think it might be my favourite yet.

Have a great half term

Best wishes,

Al

Chair WESPA

Coming Up...

<p>First day of Summer Half Term 2</p> <p>ALL DAY</p>	03 June
<p>Year 11 GCSE Exams</p> <p>ALL DAY From 07 May until 21 Jun</p>	07 May
<p>Year 13 Exams</p> <p>ALL DAY From 13 May until 21 Jun</p>	13 May
<p>Year 7 & 8 Exam Week 1</p> <p>ALL DAY From 03 Jun until 07 Jun</p>	03 June
<p>Year 10 Practice Interview Day</p> <p>ALL DAY</p>	03 June
<p>Late start for students - students to arrive for registration at 9.35am</p> <p>9:35AM – 9:35AM</p>	03 June
<p>Year 12 Biology Trip to the Francis Crick Institute</p> <p>ALL DAY</p>	06 June
<p>Year 10 DofE Qualifying Expedition</p> <p>ALL DAY From 08 Jun until 09 Jun</p>	08 June
<p>Year 7 & 8 Exam Week 2</p> <p>ALL DAY From 10 Jun until 14 Jun</p>	10 June
<p>Year 10 Art & Graphics Mock Exam</p> <p>ALL DAY From 10 Jun until 11 Jun</p>	10 June
<p>Early close for staff training - students dismissed at end of Period 4</p> <p>1:15PM – 1:30PM</p>	12 June
<p>Camden's 'Moving on' Event for 2025 Admissions - at the Francis Crick Institute</p>	13 June

4:00PM – 7:00PM