



WILLIAM ELLIS SCHOOL  
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Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

**MEETING FOR PARENTS ON MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2018 AT 6PM**

I hope you received the text message last week about a meeting for parents/carers on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 6.00pm.

I am following up that text with this letter to give some background to the purpose of the meeting.

William Ellis School is a fully inclusive comprehensive school with high aspirations for all. We are proud of our strong academic curriculum, which was commended by Ofsted in 2017, and of our results in many subjects when compared to the results of boys nationally.

However, some aspects of this year's examination performance have caused the school and governors concern, particularly in relation to one new external performance measure, Progress 8, which is calculated by the government using our pupils' primary school test scores and GCSE results across a range of subjects.

So, the purposes of the meeting are:

- To explain the Progress 8 calculation and the factors that have led to a low value at WES. One factor may be linked to the subjects we teach;
- To inform you about the school's improvement work in the light of our Progress 8 and the new more challenging GCSEs;
- To seek your views about the subjects we teach at the school and the extent to which they best serve the needs and interests of our students.

The calculation of the Progress 8 score is complicated and it may be useful to parents to read a more extensive commentary on our exam results, which has been posted on our website in the "About us" section (Exam results/Commentary on 2018 exam results) in advance of the meeting. This commentary contains the following two tables that give some insight into the complicated nature of this issue. The link is here:

<http://www.williamellis.camden.sch.uk/page/?title=Commentary+on+2018+exam+results&pid=267>

| Outcome Measure (provisional data) | William Ellis (boys) | Camden boys | Camden boys & girls | England boys | England boys & girls |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Average Attainment 8 Score         | 43.5                 | 41.9        | 47.8                | 41.3         | 44.3                 |
| English and maths – Pass 9-4       | 63%                  | 56%         | 66%                 | 55.1%        | 59.1%                |
| English and maths – Pass 9-5       | 44%                  | 38%         | 47%                 | 36.4%        | 39.9%                |
| Entered full EBacc                 | 69%                  |             | 49%                 | 29.7%        | 35.1%                |
| Achieved strong EBacc              | 24%                  | 13%         | 20%                 |              |                      |
| EBacc Average Point Score          | 4.19                 |             | 4.31                | 3.57         | 3.83                 |
| Progress 8 Score                   | -0.51                |             |                     | -0.25        | -0.02                |

This table illustrates some differences in the entries to EBacc subjects at William Ellis School compared to the national picture:

| <b>EBacc</b>                    | <b>William Ellis</b> | <b>England boys &amp; girls</b> |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Taking full EBacc               | 69%                  | 35%                             |
| Taking at least two sciences    | 96%                  | 89%                             |
| Taking triple science           | 44%                  | 26%                             |
| Taking History or Geography     | 77%                  | 74%                             |
| Taking both History & Geography | 15%                  | 9%                              |
| Taking a language               | 87%                  | 45%                             |
| Taking more than 1 language     | 16%                  | 4%                              |

We very much value our relationship with parents at William Ellis School and are seeking your views about what is an important issue for our long-term strategic planning. I hope you will be able to attend. The meeting will also be an opportunity to see our newly opened performing arts space.

Yours sincerely,

Sam White  
Headteacher