News Update
(8th February 2024)

Dear families,

Welcome to the final newsletter of this half term, showcasing some of the activities that students have been participating in around the school, and with some important messages about current activities and support for students.

Deep Learning Day Review – "It's Not OK: social media and combating misogyny" in partnership with Middlesex University and Arsenal in the Community

Last Thursday, 1st February provided an opportunity for students to focus on social and cultural issues that have been raised by the Student Council and are part of our PSHE programme. Throughout the day, Year 11 students delivered lessons around the theme of "It's Not OK", countering sexist and misogynistic attitudes to women and healthy relationships. We would like to thank these students who put several hours into planning these, working alongside researchers from Middlesex University. Students also took part in careers and aspirations workshops that are part of our ongoing work with Arsenal in the Community. The day also covered the important issue of online safety and navigating online content – only a few days later, a study was published showing how important this is and the scale of the social media challenge: Social media algorithms 'amplifying misogynistic content' | Social media | The Guardian

We know that social media use is a concern for parents and that you want to support students to use it safely and appropriately. These two guides may be useful:
Social media guide for parents to support teens | Internet Matters
Social Media & Mental Health | Guide For Parents | YoungMinds

Year 10 CATS testing

Also on Thursday, Year 10 completed computer-based CATs testing – this helps their teachers appropriately target their work through their GCSE course. It is important for the school to be able to guide their learning, though it is not a test that students can pass or fail, or receive a formal grade in. However, students in Year 10 who were absent on that day will need to complete this test another time next half term. We will let those students and parents know the exact arrangements closer to the time.

New teachers to the school

We would like to welcome two new teachers to the school who have joined us this week. Mr Chogah, Teacher of Geography, and Mr De Rosa, teacher of RE and History. They have replaced Mr Upton and Ms Fejzulahi.

Year 9 Options Evening – Wednesday 21st February, 5:30pm

All families and students in Year 9 have already been informed of this date, when we will share full details of how the options process works and there is the opportunity to speak to subject specialist staff about what the requirements and content of the Key Stage 4 courses are at William Ellis. All students study Maths, English and Science, and almost all study at least one Foreign Language. Details about the optional subjects (students pick three) will be fully available to students and families on that evening.

Year 10 Parents' Evening – Thursday 7th March

A reminder that Year 10 Parents' Evening takes place on 7th March. Appointments to see teachers will be made online, via the child's MCAS portal and bookings opened earlier this week. To find out more about booking appointments, please see the guidance on the school website: www.williamellis.camden.sch.uk/parents-evenings

A reminder about mobile phones

We have had an increase in the number of students using their mobile phones in school, and needing to be reminded of the policy that mobile phones seen or heard in school will be confiscated – more details can be found in this document. We know that particularly for students getting closer to exams, good routines around mobile phone use are very important when they are revising. Please make sure that students are able to revise somewhere away from the distractions of a mobile phone and that they go away at night, so that students can keep good sleep habits. The links above in the social media section also have useful links to pages about healthy mobile phone use. Many thanks for your support in this.

Yours faithfully,

Izzy Jones, Headteacher

Year 8 Messages
Christine Mercier Peart, Head of Year 8

Sport: Well done to our football team, who are still in the 3rd round of the London Cup, and congratulations to our basketball team who won the league undefeated. Well done also to the Friday Trampoline club, who are making great progress, and the table tennis players (beating some PE teachers I am told!)

I'm delighted to see our two new lunchtime clubs, created by students, have been well attended in room L02: on Monday we have Games club and on Wednesday Graphics club, kindly hosted by Mr Arach.

And a massive thank you to Year 11 students who came to deliver four "More in Common" Deep Learning Day lessons on Thursday 1st February. These were prepared and supported by Mr Pratt and addressed difficult issues which are so important for our young students to learn about to become the responsible citizens of our community tomorrow.

KS3 Spanish trip to the British Film Institute
Julia Holderer, MFL Teacher

Joseph in 9B writes:

"Last week myself and a group of students went on a Spanish MFL trip to watch a Spanish documentary and do various activities based on that. I learnt a lot of new words and saw a short film about a man with the power to make lightbulbs; this was very fun and enjoyable because it was a stop-motion animation. However, the best bit of the day was the very interesting documentary about a group of children in an impoverished village who play classical music with instruments made of garbage. This documentary was very interesting and I would highly recommend this to my friends and family as it is very motivational and inspirational."

Laura Madsen, Head of Art, Craft & Design:

Year 7 Pizza Perfection!

Last week I popped into a Year 7 Food Tech lesson and the students were excited to show me the pizzas they were busy creating.

They made their own dough and then added tomato sauce and cheese toppings. Most of the finished pizzas did not make it out of school as students had already eaten them!

Year 10 Art - 'Cabinet of Curiosities' Project Update

Students in Year 10 Art and Graphics classes have continued their work on the Lauderdale house 'Cabinet of Curiosities' project.

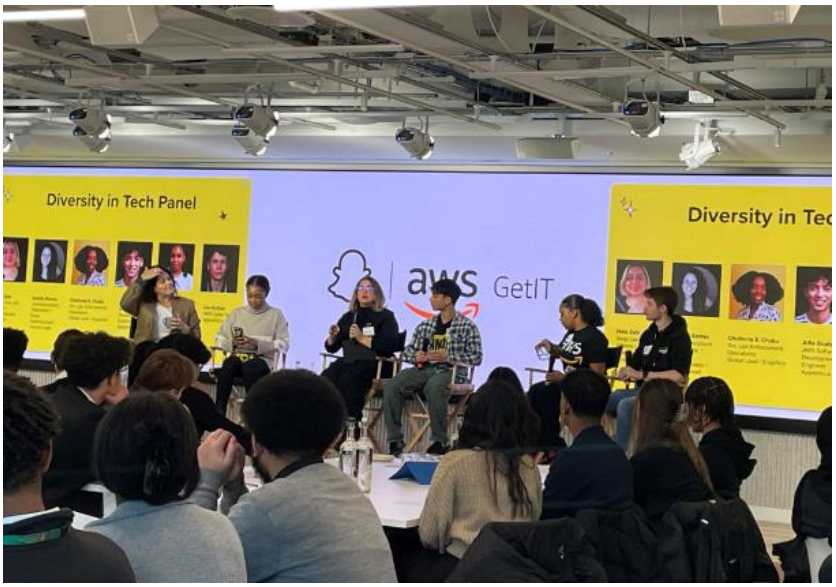
This week they created wax moulds which will be sent away to a foundry to cast their designs out of bronze! Students used metal tools, which they heated up over candles so they could carve into the wax.

They made organic forms inspired by the gardens at Lauderdale and the strange objects found in curiosity cabinets of the 18th century onward. Work will be on display at Lauderdale House later this year as part of Highgate Arts Festival.

BTEC Business Trip
Lily Mallick, Business & Economics Teacher

Last month, Year 12 BTEC students attended a workshop hosted by Snapchat and Amazon.

WES student Alana writes:



"On 23rd January, the BTEC Business group went on a trip to Snapchat headquarters. We had a fun filled day and we were able to take part in many activities during the day.

In the morning, we were welcomed by the Snapchat team and then we were separated into groups, mixing with the other schools that were there. We took part in icebreakers, then got to listen to a very educational talk by the Snap and Amazon teams. This talk told us about employee's experiences with working under their business and how they got to working with them.

After this we took part in employee "speed dating", this was when we got to meet employees personally and ask them questions about their jobs.

After the lunch break, we got to the most anticipated part of the day: presenting our own app. We were asked to make apps to help the environment. We firstly planned what our app would look like and what it would do, then we got into the marketing and finance sector that goes behind the making of the app. Our groups then practised our pitches that we would deliver to the managers of Snapchat and Amazon.

Watching all the groups go up and pitch was an amazing experience because it showed off everyone's skill set. Some of us felt comfortable with public speaking and projected their voices across the room, whilst others tried even if they weren't comfortable. Nevertheless, it was still an extraordinary moment, and everyone left feeling proud of themselves. My fellow student Joe said, "I really enjoyed going up on the stage with everyone!", while leaving.

This was an eye-opening experience for most of us and it was a great day."

Visit from German Student
Una Rodgers, Head of MFL

This week we had a student from Germany visiting the MFL department and spending some time in German lessons. Students were able to ask him questions in German and they were able to discuss the similarities and differences between school life in Germany and the UK, in order to gain more cultural awareness and develop international relations.

RSPB School's Birdwatch
Jasmine Cockcroft, Science Teacher

On 1st February, WES students and staff took part in the RSPC School's Birdwatch for the first time.

A couple of weeks beforehand some new bird feeders were installed on the school site. A fantastic group of boys representing each year group from 7 to 11 counted birds in the school grounds and then on the area of the Heath bordering our grounds.

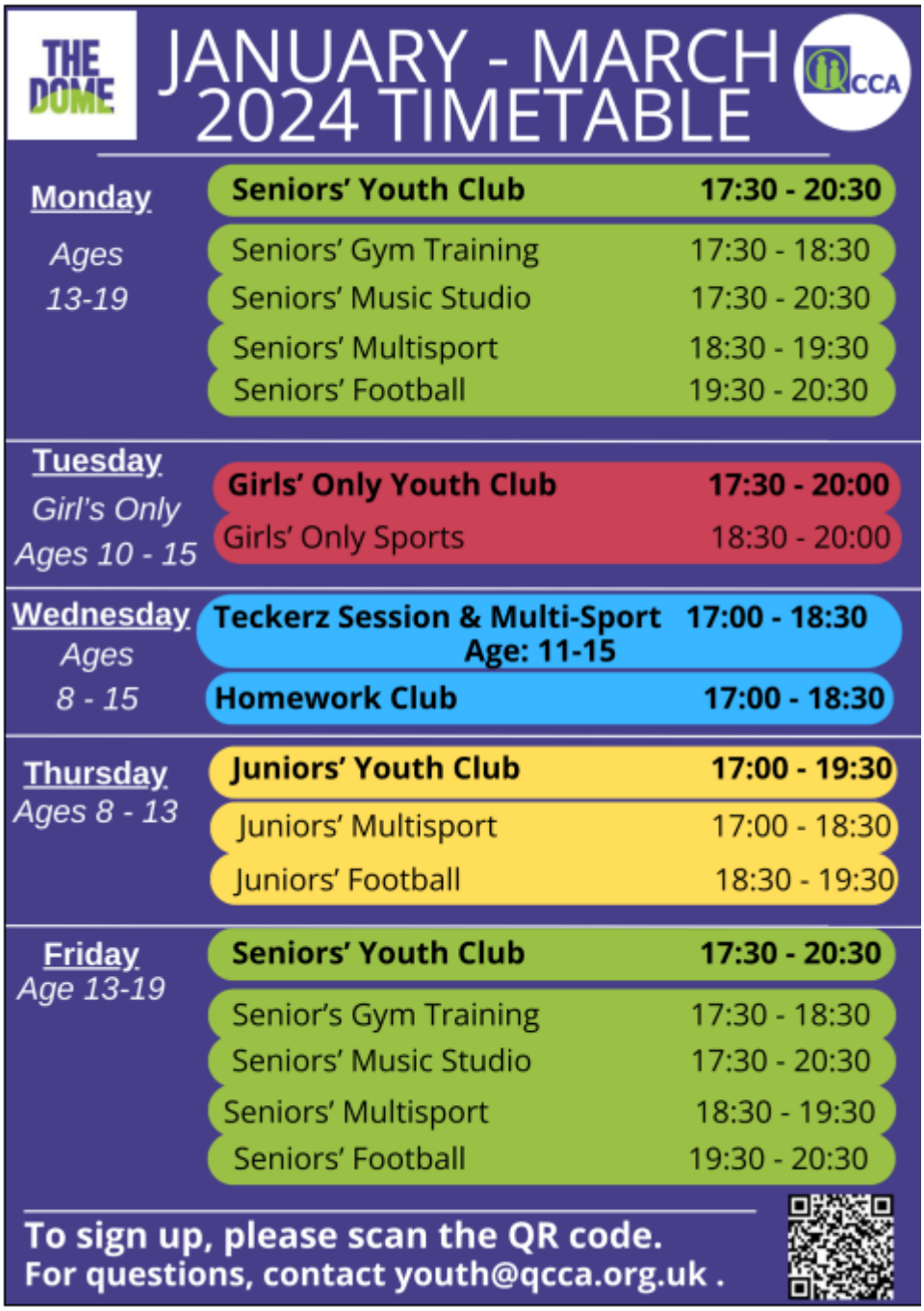
We saw and heard almost all of the birds on our list and many more, led by the very knowledgeable Mr Mangham. We hope to do more trips in the future.

Free Half Term Activities
Claire Ozkaya, Engagement Officer

The Dome focuses on supporting young people from age 8-19. They aim to create an environment where young people can enjoy being themselves and socialising.

Please feel free to get in touch with Mark (Sports Development Coordinator) details below if you require any further information:

Tel: 020 7267 6635. Mob: 07362455916. Email: Mark@qcca.org.uk



ETrust STEM Opportunity for Year 9 and 10 students:

Routes into STEM Virtual Experience 2023/24

Routes into STEM virtual experience provides an exciting opportunity to explore the various routes you can take towards your STEM career. This course is designed to enable young people to work through activities and projects at their own pace, tour a variety of institutions virtually and also have access to live career sessions and mentor panels with STEM employers.

Who is it for?

- Students in **Year 9 or 10 / S3 or S4 / equivalent** who are interested in exploring a career in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)
- All you need is an interest in STEM and curiosity about the future. The course is open to all academic abilities

What's involved?

- Approximately 20 hours of study virtually at a pace that suits you
- Exploring different Routes into a STEM career including College Courses, University Courses, and Apprenticeships and learning from industry what is involved in a STEM career as well as enhancing your skills
- Live interactive sessions over the half-term breaks, school holidays and after school, allowing you to listen and ask questions to STEM students and professionals
- Getting to work on a project set by a STEM company to look further at a career area that interests you

What do you get out of it?

- Find out about different Routes into a STEM career from industry experts, college and university leaders, as well as young people who are currently on that path
- Engage in projects and activities that will enhance your problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity and innovation skills and inspire you to find career motivation. Projects include a Biopharm challenge from GSK, a Design challenge from Balfour Beatty, an RSC Chemistry challenge and many more exciting challenges in all areas of STEM.
- Create your own personalised action plan to see your own Route into STEM
- Learn about your career skills and how you could write about this in your CV/ Personal Statement or Application form
- Receive an Industrial Cadets Bronze Award showing all that you have achieved on the course

EDT Industrial Cadets www.etrust.org.uk

When is it?

This experience runs from 2 October 2023 until 2 August 2024 **with live sessions running throughout the duration, over the half-term breaks, school holidays and after school**

Cost

£75

If cost is a barrier, fully funded places are available, please indicate your interest on the application form

How to apply?

To apply, please visit our website **here**
or **scan the QR code!**

What previous students have said

"This experience has shown me just how varied STEM is. I know that I can have a career that suits me, no matter my academic merit or personal qualities. I've also heard a lot from people who study and work in STEM, and it has been inspiring and encouraging to hear about their positive experiences and ambitions for the future. Industrial Cadets has also taught me key skills such as problem-solving and communication, which I am eager to apply to my future education and career."

"I've always loved STEM things but I always worried about not being able to make it, but now getting a STEM career seems more achievable."

"Before, I was fixed on a regular plan to go into 6th form, go to you university, and move forward without looking for any non-linear pathway. Routes into STEM has shown me that many of those who end up in STEM careers have not pursued that linear pathway, and this has made me more open to options such as apprenticeships, which I had never considered previously"

94% of students felt confident about making future career choices following their course

99% of students felt they know more about the STEM careers opportunities available to them

EDT Industrial Cadets www.etrust.org.uk

WESPA Round-Up:

Dear Families,

This week new apple trees were planted in the school grounds. Over time these will grow to become an orchard that will provide food and shelter for wildlife (and maybe the odd snack for a hungry student). What a lovely legacy for the boys to leave.

WESPA Quiz 2024

For all those who have expressed an interest in the WESPA Quiz, it is now possible to lay your hands on tickets. Tickets are £10 each or £17 for the quiz and a Bistro Laz margherita pizza. We will be running refreshments from the WESPA bar as normal.

You can form a team with friends, let the Quiz team put you together into groups or go solo - whatever works for you. As with all things WESPA, proceeds will go towards school initiatives.

Doors are at 6pm and the quiz will start at 6.30pm. Get your tickets here:

https://www.ticketebo.co.uk/wespa/wespa-quiz-2024

Vicky, Caroline, Galit and Al
WESPA Quiz Team

I hope that you all have a wonderful half term. And if you're planning ahead, why not join Heath Hands the day after the WESPA Quiz for a Family Nature Walk - 24th February on Hampstead Heath.

Best wishes,
Al

Al Mobbs
Chair WESPA

William Ellis School Parents Association
Charity number: 1158812 | William Ellis School Parents Association, William Ellis School, Highgate Road, London NW5 1RN