

Newsletter

Newsletter No: 212



June 2012

Dear Parent, Carer and Friend of the School,

The public exams are well and truly underway and I am very pleased to report that they have been running smoothly with students arriving in good time and properly equipped. I hope that those taking public examinations can take some time to relax over the half-term break whilst also focussing on revision and preparation.

Evaluating the School

I would be very grateful if all parents and carers could spare approximately 15 minutes to complete an online questionnaire about your perceptions of the school. Parents and carers should receive a letter from me in the next week or so about the questionnaire. From Monday 11th June you will be able to log onto the questionnaire from a button on the school's homepage (www.williamellis.camden.sch.uk). The token required to access the questionnaire will be in my letter. I will also be asking staff and students to complete similar questionnaires. The results of these questionnaires will inform our planning for school improvement.

House System

I am very pleased to announce that I have appointed five members of our staff to be House Leaders: Hannah Spiller, Sophie Pearce, Meg Franklin, James Langmead, and Celia Banks. Every student and every member of staff will be allocated to a house. The House Leaders will be working with students over the remainder of the term to establish a sense of identity for each House. A House System is a way of organising a school into smaller units. I believe a house system will facilitate constructive relationships between students of different ages, competition and friendly rivalry, stronger relationships between adults and students, loyalty and a sense of identity, increased opportunities for student leadership and increased involvement of

students in their own education and school decision making.

Year 9 into Year 10

Year 9 will start their step-up to year 10 after the half term break. They start their GCSE courses after half-term. This is a good time to remind you that boys in Years 10 and 11 wear a black blazer. This blazer must bear the school crest and it can be obtained from the school's uniform supplier Sportswear International, www.swi-uk.com.

I would like to finish by wishing you all an enjoyable and relaxing Jubilee weekend and a pleasant half-term.

School re-opens for students Monday 11th June, at the normal time with registration at 8.35am.

Sam White, Headteacher

WESPA – Forthcoming Event:

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For a fun night out – come and join the William Ellis Quiz Night on 22nd June 6.30pm for 7pm start.

Tickets £3 Bar Paying buffet Tables of Eight

Come along and beat the teachers table!

Email: willamellispa@gmail.com to reserve a ticket

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HUMANITIES FACULTY NEWS

Mr J Forrest, Head of Geography, writes:

Year 7 Volcano Model Competition

There were plenty of entries in the volcano model making competition this year and the standard was very high with many excellent efforts. As usual an amazing range of materials was used from plaster of paris to paper mache to masking tape ! Ms Spiller kindly volunteered to act as photographer while several boys willingly volunteered to 'explode' some of them with a mixture of bicarbonate of soda and vinegar. After much deliberation the judges which included Mr Altmann, Ms Brown and Mr Senechal, decided that a small prize – Horrible Geography book 'Violent Volcanoes' - should be awarded to the volcanoes made by: Constandinos Kotsis (7SPE), Andrew Matson (7PNE), Daniel Riccio (7SPE), Milo Tingey (7AME), Naim Rahman (7SPE), & Michael McCabe (7AME) for a 'cake' volcano.

All boys who made a volcano also received a tiny prize to acknowledge their efforts – a bag of *explosive* popcorn !



Photo - *Constadinos Kotsis prepares for the eruption*

Geography Department Spring Term Awards

The winners of the Spring term Geography Dept. awards were in Year 7 Charlie Bridge & Matt Philips; in Year 8 Yasin Razmjou & Ram Choudhury; in Year 9 Jamie Gordon & Muhamed

Halimi. They each received a certificate, a guide book or book, and a geographical magazine.

Year 12 Travel & Tourism Lille Visit

In mid-March the Year 12 Travel and Tourism A-level class went by Eurostar on a day trip to investigate the popularity and appeal of Lille for short-break visits. An extensive walking tour of the centre of Lille allowed students to explore the Art Museum, Zoo, old quarter, Cathedral and main square as well as looking in at the tourist office to gather information for their coursework. There was also time for lunch in a brasserie and a visit to a hypermarket before our return.

2012 China Trip

We are very grateful to those old Elysians who contributed to the funding of the proposed 'teach the Chinese to play cricket' trip to China this year. Unfortunately, despite extensive approaches a private sponsor was not secured and the trip could not go ahead.

However, we are already planning a trip for next year with a different theme and we are hopeful that a small group of students and teachers will be able to visit. If any parents have links with China and are able to provide links to potential sponsors then I would very much like to hear from you.

Year 7 Chess Club

Chess club has remained popular during the Spring term as many boys tried to improve their records. Boys with excellent records at the time of writing include Constandinos Kotsis (7SPE), Alban Tahraj (7AME), Milo Tingey (7AME), Danell Edwards (7ASZ), Hugo Guernam (7ASZ), Claudio Bardhoshi (7AME) & David Rojas-Torres (7RMC). After half-term the 8 boys who have played at least 5 games and have the best records, will play in a knockout competition to find the "2012 Year 7 Chess champion."

Mr B Taylor, Head of RE, writes:

RE at WES goes global!



All Year 9 RE students have been following an international programme of study since September 2011. **“Face to Faith”** – one branch of the *‘Tony Blair Faith Foundation’* charity – was launched in May 2009 with the intention to encourage dialogue between, and amongst, young people across the world. Almost three years later, participating schools have reached over one hundred which are spread across 17 countries, and this is still growing.

At William Ellis, as with all participating schools, students have discussed key questions such as *“What is faith?”* and explored contemporary issues such as *wealth, poverty* and *the environment*. In doing so, they have had the opportunity to participate in a video-conference, with a partnering school in one of these many counties, to not only consolidate their work but to engage in dialogue with peers to explore each other’s lives. So far, we have successfully had a video-conference (VC) with a school in Illinois, USA and another with a school in Milan, Italy,



Students engagement in these was brilliant!

In the VC with the American school, after the initial nerves of being ‘on screen’, seeing their peers ‘live’ and being faced with a webcam and microphone, some boys did freeze in the moment! However, once the conversations began to develop, many boys did comfortably engage in the dialogue as noted by our facilitator in this particular VC, Cory Davies. He stated, “Students who may have been hesitant at first began speaking rather routinely and more and more voices were heard.” Well done to the boys who seemed to really enjoy the experience and some have, subsequently, asked to do more! As a result, VC’s have now been booked with schools in India, Singapore and Jordan. This is in addition to more VC’s with the American and Italian schools.

As encouraged in the RE lessons, listening skills and being able to engage in meaningful dialogue – whatever the issue at hand – is a life skill. Students will need these for the increasingly-changing world in which they live. The opportunity to develop this within the realms of the classroom has not only been unique but well-received which the RE department will continue to do.

If anyone would like to find out more about the programme or ask a question about it, please do not hesitate to ask me at taylor@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

YEAR 10 NEWS

Mr H Parry, Head of Year 10, writes:

From the **“World’s Biggest School Assembly”** on the BBC website:

William Ellis School in Camden, UK, put the focus on two of its students to tell the school what matters to them.

Taofiq, who is from Nigeria, and Abdul, from Sierra Leone, decided to do an assembly about African culture in London

They spoke about how young people of African descent show less respect to their elders, and wondered whether this was a reason that some of these young people ended up turning to crime.



Taofiq and Abdul prepare for their assembly

Also, A huge thank you to Thonmoy Dey who arranged my first trip to the Houses of Parliament on a rainy Tuesday morning in early May. Along for the experience came Felix Day, Sam Glover and Wilson Wu. The trip was a constituency reward from Jeremy Corbyn MP to good citizen Thonmoy for work in the community.

It was a truly fascinating experience finally getting to know what exactly goes on below the chimes of Big Ben and an excellent idea for a school trip. Why hadn't I thought of that before?

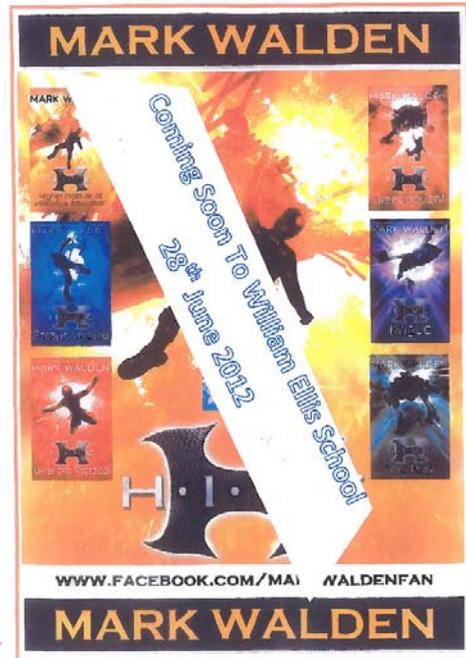
Thanks again Thonmoy



LIBRARY NEWS

Ms S Smith, Librarian, writes:

Mark Walden, author of the H.I.V.E. series will be visiting Years 7 and 8 on June 28th. Signed copies of his latest book will be on sale at just £5.25 each (25% discount on usual price) from the school on that day.



GOOD NEWS FOR WES 6TH FORM

Ms Sharon White, Head of Year 12, writes:

Two fantastic Year 12 students, Marina Anastasi and Ferdos Daqiq have been awarded places on the Sutton Trust US Summer School. This is an amazing achievement for them as there were thousands of applicants across the country who applied for one of the 62 places on this prestigious trip. This is the first year that the Sutton Trust has arranged such a Summer School in the USA. The students will be treated to an all expenses paid visit to Yale University this summer. They will receive top class teaching there as well as support in applying to US universities. A big 'Well done!' to these two lucky (and extremely hardworking!) students.

PERFORMING ARTS FACULTY NEWS

Mr J Pratt, Head of Faculty, writes:

Year 8 Drama Trip to the Unicorn Theatre

How To Think The Unthinkable.

"The best trip I've ever been on," said Ademola when he was asked for his verdict.

So what was so good about it?

As Pujan explained, "it had blood, action and emotion from start to finish. Poor Antigone got walled up in a cave, just for burying her brother. It was a modern adaptation of the Greek tragedy by Sophocles."

The boys have been looking at Greek tragedy in Drama lessons. It was agreed that there is more blood and guts in the average Greek tragedy than in any other play or Call of Duty.

Most of the boys who came on the trip are members of the Year 8 Drama Club and earlier in the year they performed in the Shakespeare Schools Festival. After exams, they will be coming together again in Drama Club to do some work on the story of Antigone. We intend to put on our own production in the autumn, not sparing any details, so we have ordered plenty of fake blood.

Year 9 Drama trip to the Mill

Twenty boys in Year 9 went to the Mill for two days to work on some presentations for Deep Learning Day. The theme of the day is "Risk" and we have prepared some short plays to show to the Year 8 classes. Then the boys will be leading some discussions with the Year 8s about risk-taking.

It was a fantastic two days, the boys worked incredibly hard and still had enough energy to run about in the woods next to Leith Hill Tower before dinner on Thursday. The only thing that went wrong was the minibus breaking down on the motorway on the way home!

ENGLISH & LITERACY FACULTY NEWS

Ms S Kerr and Ms L Alkunshalie write:

On the 15th March, year 8 students participated in the [BBC School News Report Day](#). The BBC School News Report is an initiative which sees thousands of students in hundreds of UK schools learn to be journalists with the help of the BBC. Pupils choose the stories and broadcast them for real. We were also very lucky to have BBC journalist Joanne Episcopo join us on the practice day held in school and on the News Report day. Students enjoyed working with her, and gaining from her experience and knowledge of the real world of journalism.

One student, Ram Choudhury from 8NCU, who took part in the day this year, writes:



On Thursday 15th of March, I and my fellow classmates went out to do a BBC report on the latest breaking news. To do so, we travelled to the Camden Learning Centre (CLC), where we had all the equipment needed to produce an exciting but informative report. We were one of many schools participating in the BBC School News Report.

Once we arrived at the learning centre, we immediately set about organising ourselves into groups for different categories like sports, local news and international news.

Once the groups were clarified, we went onto the computer to check about the latest breaking news for our categories. After this, we wrote our transcripts for our news and began practising. Transcripts were uploaded to the computer so we could speak whilst reading the news. The equipment we used varied from I pads to using green screen. The staff at the CLC were hospitable and professional, and very helpful. Inevitably, there were a few takes however in the end we finally finished our report to the best of our ability.

My personal experience resulted in me being more aware of how the news is made behind the scenes, and I also really enjoyed the whole day and took away some very valuable experiences. The whole day was extremely rewarding!



Ms Kerr writes:

The Key Stage Three reading club continues to run on Friday at lunchtime, with many students enjoying a wide range of texts and discussing them. All new members are welcome to join. We meet in Rm 26 from 1:30 onwards. Please come, or speak to Ms. Kerr for more details.

We have also started participating in the Carnegie Shadowing Award scheme for the second year running. Students from years 7- 9 are currently reading their way through the nominated 8 books from the Carnegie Medal's shortlist. We hope to meet up with other neighbouring schools participating in the awards scheme in June at Swiss Cottage Library so that we can swap our thoughts on the books.

Ms D Silver, English & Media Studies teacher, writes:

Film Club

The English and Media department have launched a successful film club for Year 10.

We have been showing 'cult classics' and the film club members have also begun to introduce screenings of their favourite films. This lunch-time club runs on Monday and Tuesday from

1.15pm and has provoked interesting discussion about what actually gives a film 'cult' status.

We were thrilled that Debs Paterson (director *Africa United*) was able to open our inaugural meeting, and we look forward to welcoming more industry professionals to work with our members next half term!



SPORTS & ACTIVITIES FACULTY

Mr R McGowan, PE Teacher, writes:

Honourable Artillery Company (HAC) Rugby Exhibition



In early May eight Year 10 boys took part in the HAC Rugby Exhibition. The primary aim of the event was to promote the HAC (reserve forces) but also took the opportunity to help promote rugby in schools, making use of the 'Company's' illustrious playing grounds. Run by the RFU the boys took part in a number of coaching sessions, developing skills such as: passing, tackling and general game play. In between these sessions small games were arranged putting 'practice into play'. As the event was open to the public

towards the end there was quite a large crowd watching, which, as you could imagine, the boys relished. Overall they did extremely well, took a lot back from the experience and represented William Ellis rugby proudly. All we need to do next is work on the team photos.

Mr A Szymanski, PE Teacher, writes:

A few weeks ago we encouraged several boys from various year groups across WES to take part in a mini marathon being organised by the Borough of Camden.

Boys who finished well in the Camden marathon qualified for the Virgin London Mini Marathon which took place Sunday 22.04.2012.

We are very proud of these boys and it is my pleasure to inform you that a few WES boys qualified and ran the London mini Marathon : Joe Harragan (7ASZ), Matthew Phillips (7RMC), Ricky Redhead (10KCH).

Pleurat Hadziu (8JHU) deserves special recognition because he completed the full marathon of 26 miles, finishing the run within 4h,3 min! Great result, and great example for other students, obviously he turned up to school on Monday like nothing had happened and full of energy as usual.

Well done boys!

GAMES CLUB

Wanted! The lunchtime Games Club would love some more board games. If you have any unwanted games in your cupboards, please ask your son to bring into school and pass to Mr Altmann.

Thank you.

IN THE NEWS



Year 9 first XI football team and staff with former student David Brierley

Former-pupil David's return is a premier pleasure for pupils

An unexpected surprise was in store at a school assembly when a former pupil dropped in with the Premier League trophy. It was a welcome intrusion for the pupils at William Ellis School in Highgate Road, who were absolutely delighted when former student David Brierley

dropped in with the trophy on May 2. Mr Brierley, 22, won the trophy for a day after he had entered a competition held by a Premier League PE firm and wanted to show it to pupils at his old school. The University of Sheffield student said: "As a former pupil at William Ellis, I am

aware of how healthily obsessed they are with football. I wanted to give something back. I suppose I like to define life by what you give and not by what you have." Headteacher Sam White said: "We were absolutely delighted that David thought of his old school when he

won this competition. David spoke to the boys about his love of football and how much he'd enjoyed playing the game when he was a student at William Ellis. "The boys were thrilled to see the Premiership Trophy, especially as it is probably the only time it will be seen in London this year."

This is a clipping from a recent edition of the Ham & High. A former pupil, David Brierley, won a day with the Premier League trophy and brought it in for the boys at William Ellis to see just before Manchester City players got to hold it!

DIARY DATES 2011 – 2012

Mon 11 June	Year 12 A2 Teaching starts
18 – 29 June	Year 7 & 8 Exams
18-22 June	Refugee Week
Thu 21 June	Year 11 Celebration, 7pm
Fri 22 June	WESPA Quiz Night, 6.30pm
Fri 22 June/ Sun 24 June	Mill Working Weekend & Duke of Edinburgh Award Weekend
Sat 23 June	YMM Concert, St. Mary Brookfield
25-29 June	Year 10 Exams Week
Tue 26 June	Year 9 – 10 Transition Evening
Thu 28 June	Mark Walden (author) Visit
Fri 29 June	Y11 La Swap Induction Day, ABS
2 – 6 July	Year 7 Camp Week 1 Year 10 Work Experience
Wed 4 July	Year 6 Induction Day/ Parents' Information Evening
Wed 11 July	International Evening
9 – 13 July	Year 7 Camp Week 11 Year 10 Work Experience
Fri 13 July	Royal Academy Lunchtime concert
Tue 17 July	Sports Day Awards Evening
Wed 18 July	Summer Concert
Thu 19 July	Deep Learning Day VI

TERM DATES 2011 - 12

SUMMER TERM

Start of term
Tuesday 17th April 2012

End of Term
Friday 20th July 2012

May Day:
Monday 7th May 2012

Half-term:
Monday 4th June -
Friday 8th June 2012
Inc. Queen's Golden Jubilee -
Tuesday 5th June 2012

TERM DATES 2012 - 2013

AUTUMN TERM

Start of Term
Monday 3rd September 2012

End of Term
Friday 21st December 2012

Half-term:
Monday 29th October 2012 -
Friday 2nd November 2012

SPRING TERM

Start of Term
Monday 7th January 2013

End of Term
Thursday 28th March 2013

Half-Term:
Monday 18th February 2013 -
Friday 22nd February 2013

SUMMER TERM

Start of term
Monday 15th April 2013

End of Term
Tuesday 23rd July 2013

May Day:
Monday 6th May 2013

Half-term:
Monday 27th May -
Friday 31st May 2013

****INSET DAYS (Provisional)**

Monday 3rd September 2012
Tuesday 4th September 2012
Friday 5th October 2012
Friday 30th November 2012
Monday 15th April 2013 (to be confirmed)

