



The Spring Term was as busy with trips and events as ever and this newsletter contains just a flavour of some of these. Do look out for regular news posts on the front page of the school website. The term ended with three of the “big” events of the school year – Spring Shindig, WES got Talent and WESPA Quiz Night:

SPRING SHINDIG

The evening of 22nd March found the hall filled to the rafters with families, students and staff for the increasingly popular annual Spring Shindig run by the Music Department and supported by WESPA.



It is a great way for the whole William Ellis community to come together in an informal setting. Last year, Mr Difusco, English Teacher, commented ‘I brought my girlfriend and it was actually quite good’. Mr Difusco is now engaged, so we think it’s safe to say the Shindig was a big factor in that happening!

Mr Pratt, Lead Practitioner for Performing Arts, ably acted as Master of Ceremonies helped by Omar. The line-up included:

- **William Ellis Vocal group** singing some real tear jerkers.

Soloists - Bobby, Adam, Richard, Rudy, Peter, Kashia, Josh, Omar/Charlie rapping combo and many more :

- **The William Ellis Big Band**
- **William Ellis Jazz society**
- **Last Minute** (A lively Year 10 band led by the ever self-assured Roko)
- **Oliver Paul, Scipio, Luke, Archie and Hamish** playing (and singing!)

The night finished off with the boys joined by *professional* big band ‘**King Groovy and the Horn Stars**’ and featured more vocal and instrumental performances from many of the boys. They certainly brought a crowd to the dance floor.

Staff ran back and front of house and made sure the musicians were in the right place at the right time. WESPA not only organised the event but helped make the evening a success by setting up and selling hot and cold food and a selection of drinks throughout the evening to keep everyone refreshed for the long musical evening. Thanks go to both WESPA and Mr Forbat, Head of Music, and Mr Singleton, Music Teacher, and our peri music teachers, together with the parents and friends that came along for supporting the boys and contributing to a great evening.

Funds raised will go towards equipping the new Performing Arts block and support extra-curricular groups like the Samba band.

Unfortunately the photographer was not able to make the evening, hence the rather dark and blurry phone picture!



WES Got Talent!



A very special Friday evening bursting with talent. What a show it was!!!

Ms Conran, Science Teacher lead organiser ably assisted by all the house leaders sent a massive thank you to everyone for supporting WESGT 2019.

Responding to the astounding array of talent it was decided to make some new additions to the award titles and all winning acts received a medal or trophy.

Building on the success of this year there are lots of developments in mind for WESGT 2020, but if students have any ideas or suggestions please let her know.

Ms Conran said, "We truly had a stellar line up this year, bands from almost every year group - so much talent! We even had a spot of comedy from the ever gentlemanly Alex in Year 11 (last year to see his performance!). Thank you to tutors for encouraging the boys to sign up, show up and perform and to teachers for coming along to support them".



WESPA Quiz Night



The quiz master was parent celebrity David Baddiel acted again as quiz master.



Tickets were only £8 and included delicious food, provided by local sponsor Bistro Laz.

It was a popular event, with parents, teachers and a few governors battling for the trophy.



It is vital that students gain as much information as possible about Higher Education and all the excellent alternative options available to allow them to make informed decisions about their future. To aid this, all Year 12 lessons were suspended on 25th March so that LaSWAP students could attend the UCAS Higher Education Fair at the Excel Centre. All the universities and colleges in the country were at the event. Students were able to chat to admissions officers and ask any questions to help make decisions about their future. There was a Careers Zone too for students interested in getting information about apprenticeships.



LaSWAP Drama Production – Blood Wedding, RADA 15th and 16th July

There will be a sixth form production this year! It is being led by Sarah O’Keefe from La Sainte Union School but it is a whole LaSWAP consortium event.

Students will be involved in all aspects of the production - from stage management and assistants (costume changes, setting stage and props) to designing costumes and sets and posters, programmes and tickets and producing. Look out for posters soon.

Ellis Alumni

The school recently hosted an evening meeting of the Old Elysians – approximately 20 ex-students from the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. Mr White welcomed them to the school and Ms Seeburn, Director of Operations, showed them the new music and drama studies and other new changes to the school buildings. It was a pleasure to see them all and great that they keep in touch. They have a website if you are interested in looking into some of the long school history www.elysiansclub.co.uk

The school does have an substantial archive which was curated by the Old Elysians and we often have unexpected visits from Old Elysians who have fond memories of their time at the school. We also receive unusual emails from “old boys” or memorabilia found in attics. We recently received a whole-school photo of students in 1959 from the family of Mr Platt, which was much appreciated. An unusual request was for a picture of the school’s badge for the combined cadet force arm-band. Although the cadet force was disbanded many years’ ago an Old Elysian was able to provide this.

Our more recent ex-students are encouraged to sign up to Future First, a countrywide alumni network for comprehensive school students, which was set up by ex William Ellis students. Their website is www.futurefirst.org.uk

Student Climate Change Protests

Many current students are very concerned about climate change and the impact this means for their futures so have left lessons to support protests in Parliament Square. Year 10 Geography students wrote a note to Mr Pomeyie and Xander in 8B, wrote an excellent email to Mr White and his tutor and head of year about the reasons he intended joining the protest on 15th February:

Dear Sir’s,

On Friday 15th February I will be participating in the Youth Strike 4 Climate Protest and will be leaving school at 10am to attend at Parliament Square.

I am asking for your support in my actions as I believe that we as a community need to start making drastic changes to secure our future.

Climate change is pretty self-explanatory. It’s change in the climate. The cause of this change is us humans. We are polluting the environment with carbon dioxide from all types of machines and we’re doing nothing about it. As I said this issue has been around long enough to give us time to start fixing the mess we’ve made and yet nothing’s happened.



200 species go extinct per day

A football pitch size of rainforest was destroyed each second in 2017

A rubbish truck load of plastic is dumped in the ocean every minute.

Since the first UN summit on climate in 1995 the global emissions have risen by 60% and continue to rise.

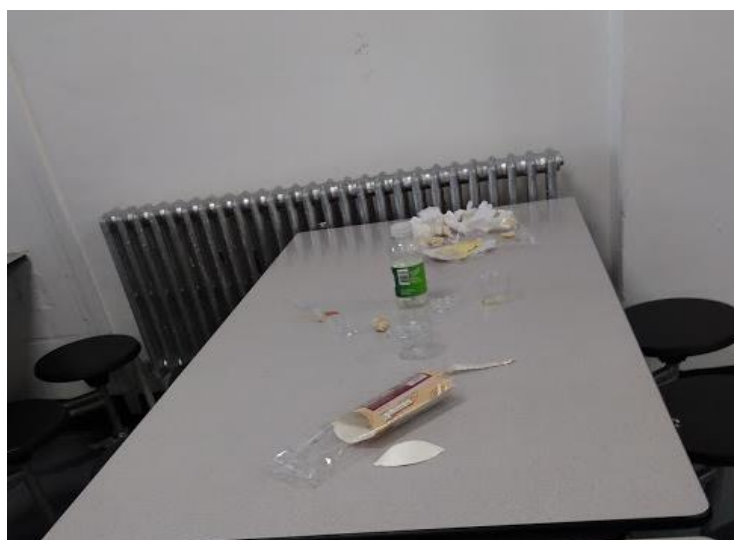
Devastating impacts of extreme weather are in the news on a daily basis

My parents are full supportive of my decision to participate in this action and will be emailing you to confirm this support.

I thank you in advance for your understanding.

The LA do not allow the school to authorise absences for students out of school for protests but we do support students' right to take action by protesting.

We would, though, encourage students to see what they can do to improve their immediate school environment, and locally, as a practical way of making the changes we all need to make. Ms Conran, Science Teacher has agreed to lead on a Camden project – Sustainers. Here is a picture of debris left on a canteen table at the end of lunch! It would be great if the boys always remembered to use the bottle recycling bin and put their debris in the correct waste buckets.



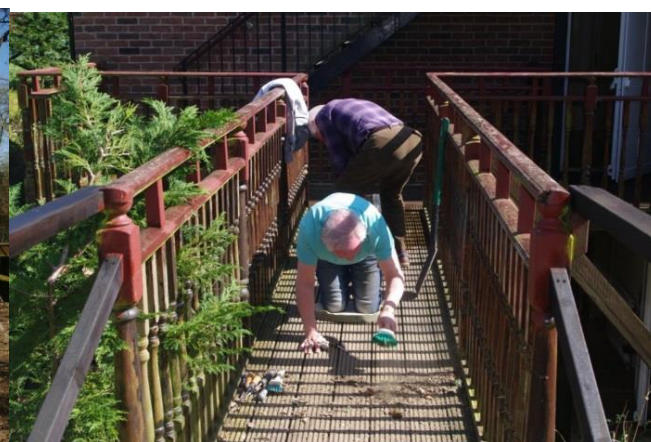
The Mill

We had an unexpected communication from a new neighbour at the Mill to let us know that they would be happy to help our boys on camp plant/harvest some vegetables, interact with animal care and learn about organic gardening on their 7 acre property which includes an orchard of 36 apple trees, most kinds of fruit bushes, a huge green house and many raised beds for vegetable growing. They also have chickens and horses. Support staff - Ms Cooper and Ms Ozkaya made a trip down to Surrey to view the smallholding to see what activities could be incorporated into the camp programme.



Ms Cooper and Ms Ozkaya also managed to finally take the vintage and very heavy football games table donated last year via WESPA to the Mill for the boys to use in the games room.

The latest working weekend took place at the end of March. Volunteers cleared weeds from the pond, (found a frog!), tidied gravel paths and finished laying stepping stones below the new Low Rope Course, re-stained handrails and fences and cleaned the boarded walkways. The weekend finished with a huge bonfire and the volunteers celebrating a job well done in the fabulous Surrey countryside.



The next Mill working weekend will be from Friday 21st June to Sunday 23rd June. All WES parents are welcome to come along to the working weekends. Most of the current volunteers won't mind us mentioning that are now getting on in years and would really appreciate some younger helpers. All the work the volunteers carry out certainly improve the boys' experiences at camp. You can stay all weekend or just come for the day. If you are interested in getting involved, please do call or email Su Jones at the Mill. (Tel: 01306 621452 or email themill452@gmail.com) She would be delighted to hear from you.



The final working weekend this year will be 5th-7th October – put it in your diaries.

Building Works at the School

The new music and dram spaces in our new extension – the north wing – have now been completed. The new Cookery rooms should be completed over the Easter holidays. We hope to have a special opening evening so that visitors can come along and see the new facilities and enjoy seeing the new spaces in action. The date is planned for Wednesday 26th June. Look out for further details.

HAPPY WORLD BOOK DAY!

No dressing up outfits were needed at William Ellis for World Book Day, but staff and boys were encouraged to think about their own reading and share with each other by completing postcards with the following questions:

Reading is Power!

When I was growing up a book that made a big impression on me was.....
by..... because.....

Reading is Power!

A book that changed the way I look at the world is.....
by..... because.....

The interesting replies were displayed by Ms Ozkaya outside the hall to encourage everyone to see if there are any books they hadn't thought of reading.



PERFORMING ARTS NEWS



One of the highlights of this term was the Camden Youth Dance rehearsals and performance at The Place. This was the performers posing in the rehearsal rooms for a group photo!

MFL DEPARTMENT NEWS

The department has run a very full range of trips this term, from Paris, Spain, and skiing in the Alps to cinema trips in Earls Court and a university visit to Cambridge.



Disneyland Paris in January

To celebrate the Chinese New Year there were special events in school for Year 7 including Dragon making and a special Chinese lunch in the canteen. In addition, a group of boys visited SOAS for a special Chinese New Year event.



Marvin in 7F wrote:

When I reached SOAS after a long tube journey, I was instantly immersed into Chinese culture. In the first hour alone, the warm, inviting hosts taught me a lot about China - about the language, customs, etiquette, myths and much more. They used games, quizzes and the like as (very effective) learning aids. If, before the visit, you had asked me about the animals of the Chinese zodiac, or what an erhu was, I'd have had no idea, but after learning about the fascinating culture and rich history of China, I've gained knowledge that will likely stay with me for the rest of my life.

Following the session, I had a lesson in Chinese calligraphy. Before, I thought of Chinese characters as nothing more than a writing system, but, after the lesson, I came to realise that they're an art that would take a person years to perfect. I learned more about their origin, and how to write things in Chinese. It was very interesting learning about an integral part of such a unique, ancient culture, and watching numerous brush strokes combine to form beautiful-looking symbols.

After a lunch break, I returned to the enjoyable activities. Our hosts showed us round SOAS, where myself and the others on the trip got to witness some amazing relics. Ancient, intricately-designed kettles of Chinese origin, and centuries-old Chinese vases. We saw not only Chinese relics but African ones too - including a gallery full of works inspired by art from the continent. This was probably my favourite part of my visit, as seeing pieces of art, pieces of history, painted hundreds of years ago, in a country with a past so long and fascinating as China's was a brilliant experience.

The final activity I partook in was Chinese-based arts and crafts. Making paper dragons from China, and doing yet more calligraphy, was enjoyable as I was being creative as well as learning about China. Although I was only at SOAS for few hours, I learned a lot about China's history and culture, which I am thankful for. Let's just say, after all the fun things I'd been doing throughout the day, I didn't want to say zàijiàn quite yet.



SPELLING BEE COMPETITION

Year 7 French students took part in a Spelling Bee Competition led by Ms Meechan, in the hall in place of their usual Oracy lesson.

Gabriel 7B, Marvin 7F, Jasper 7K were then invited to the Spelling Bee Regional Final in Romford. This event's aim is to develop confidence and continue to develop contestants' French vocabulary significantly. The three students had already learned to translate and spell 100 words in French, and then had to work on an additional 50 words necessary for the regional final.

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

This term has seen Basketball fixtures every Wednesday evening with other Camden schools, an inter-house football competition, an inter-house basketball competition, after school football, touch rugby sessions with Hampstead Rugby Club and table tennis club along with other more informal activities. Boys should check the noticeboard outside the PE changing rooms for details of clubs in the Summer term.

Our Safer Schools Office, PC Jack has also told us about a police run boxing club starting up in the Summer term – all our students are welcome and should see him for more information.

ART DEPARTMENT NEWS

Our arts governor and WESPA are working with the Affordable Art Fair on Hampstead Heath, 8th - 12th May and this year we are delighted that William Ellis will be part of the art fair through a school competition:

Artwork should be produced on the theme "Art in Mind", A4 in size and two dimensional.

Use of a variety of materials encouraged from paint and pastels to collage.

Entries to the Art Department by Friday 26th April.



Prizes and house points will be awarded. The winning students will have their artworks exhibited at the art fair and receive FREE tickets for themselves and their family, plus additional house points!

This is an excellent opportunity for our school to get some positive publicity and for students to have the opportunity to have their work celebrated.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

As usual, the school had two non-uniform days on the last day of each half term at the request of the school council with the aim of raising funds for charities by everyone donating £1.



At the end of the Easter term students raised money for the Disaster Emergency Committee who are helping families affected by Cyclone Idai. Cyclone Idai swept through Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe last month, leaving behind a trail of destruction, killing at least 750 people and leaving 2.5 million in need of help.

Strong winds and widespread flooding ripped apart roads, bridges, houses, schools and health facilities and submerged vast swathes of agricultural land. Flooding remains severe and the full scale of the disaster has yet to become clear as search and rescue operations continue. With little clean water available, cholera cases have been reported and there is a high risk of outbreaks of other waterborne diseases.

DEC member charities are working closely with national partners to support the rescue and relief effort, delivering clean water, emergency shelter materials and blankets, food such as pulses and maize flour, and urgent health assistance.

The donations of £1 each are yet to be counted but envelopes were certainly heavy.

At the end of the first half term we collected £588.85 for the National MPS Society which is a charity very close to Mr Rourke and his family – this is the most we've ever raised for a Non Uniform Day collection.

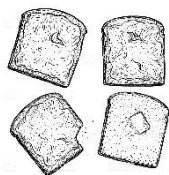
Staff and students were most generous and Mr Rourke said that it meant a lot to him and his wife.



Two students from the School Council attended the Trustees meeting in March. The Trustees very much appreciate meeting with students to find out more about the school from the students' perspective and share with them the role of the Trustees.



BREAKFAST CLUB



Breakfast Club run every morning from 8am in the canteen. All boys are more than welcome to join Alex, student mentor, for toast or cereals to set them up for the day. We were pleased to receive a grant to support the club recently thanks to Ms Seeburn, Director of Operations, putting in a successful bid.

THE SCHOOL GOES CASHLESS



From Wednesday 24 April we will no longer be able to accept cash or cheques in school.

We will be using an online provider called ParentPay and you will be sent information and an activation letter by post during the school holidays. ParentPay will be used for all payments to be made to school – meals, trips, music lessons, revision books etc. The old system – Scopay will close and all balances will be transferred.

Students won't be able to pay for their school meals using cash in the top up machines in school, all payments will have to be made either online or in cash at local shops displaying the PayPoint sign.

We anticipate this system will take a while to settle in BUT you can be assured that no student will go without a meal during the settling in period.

Careers and Networking

The school is always looking for partnerships with various businesses in order to help students become aware of the wide range of careers available to them. Mr Wharton, Director of Sixth Form, recently met with a member of the Worshipful Company of Insurers with a view to creating some opportunities to work together. The Livery connection was chosen in light of William Ellis, our founder, working in Indemnity Marine.

Year 7 News

Theatre Trip

Year 7s have had a busy term with the most important event being a trip to the Unicorn Theatre to see a performance of "Icarus". It was quite a logistical job to walk 130 students down to Kentish



Town Station and then squeeze them onto a busy commuter tube to get to London Bridge and then walk on to the Unicorn Theatre but there were plenty of staff joining the trip to make sure everything went smoothly. The production – a modern telling of the tale - was greatly enjoyed by all and the audience were so mesmerised by the performance that for 70 minutes there was complete concentration by all the boys (and indeed staff!).

Model Volcano Competition



The annual Year 7 Volcano Model competition was again a success with some very ingenious models. Mr Pomeyie, Head of Geography, spent some time facilitating the eruption of each one of the many entrants. Staff came along to judge and votes were cast for houses as follows:

1st – Fenton (20 points)

2nd – Willow (16 points)

3rd – Burgh (12 points)

4th – Keats (8 points)

5th – Lauderdale (4 points)

Well done to all the boys for taking the time to produce their volcanoes.

Year 8 News

Apprentices

This term our Year 8 students have worked on a rota basis as apprentices to the main office/senior leaders. They are based at the entrance to the library, have a proper job description and carry out tasks for the admin team and visit classrooms with notes or to collect students who need to go to appointments etc. They were invaluable in collecting students for their recent individual oral exams. Each student gives feedback on their session and we will use this to improve their experience next term.

Crossing Over" performances

The school was pleased to host performances from the "Crossing Over" theatre. This was part of Camden's road safety awareness programme and provided Year 8s with reminders of aspects of road safety that students sometimes forget as they grow older and travel more often on their own. Distraction, especially using a mobile phone when crossing can have serious consequences.

Old Vic Theatre Trip

January saw a visit to the Old Vic to see "A Christmas Carol".



Year 9 News

Students from Year 9 took part in an Architecture and Model Making Workshop in February. This was a free workshop, giving the boys the opportunity to explore another aspect of their art, craft and design studies so far.

March saw all the boys visiting the Imperial War Museum with Ms Conway to consolidate their history studies this term on The Holocaust.

Year 10 News

This time of year finds Year 10 students needing to find placements for their two weeks' of work experience in July. To help with this Mr Parry ran a "Get Ready for Work Experience" day in March run by our partner, Inspire! They help the boys by showing them how they should go about getting a placement and indeed putting them in touch with companies that have agreed to take students on work experience. If any parents work for companies that could offer work experience to a William Ellis boy, please do get in touch with Mr Parry at the school.



Year 10 STEM Festival at Middlesex University

"Mentoring Works" Programme

This Year 10 programme links students from **William Ellis School** to mentors from **The Guardian**. These business volunteers mentor students in order to help them reach their individual goals on a fortnightly basis in their offices in Kings Cross.

There will be a special presentation event at the Islington Assembly Hall on Monday 1st July late afternoon.

Students and mentors from all the partner schools and City companies are invited to attend. At the event, each student will receive a certificate to congratulate them on taking part in the programme and there will be speeches, photographs and refreshments. The event also provides students with the opportunity to say goodbye to their mentor and thank them for all their hard work over the past year.



Year 11 News

GCSE Art have been on many trips to art galleries to work on their portfolios. Here some are at work at the Tate Gallery:



There are lots of extra “catch up” lessons being run for the boys during the Easter holidays. Do encourage your son to attend.

Staff News

Staffing for Summer Term 2019

We are sorry to say “goodbye” to two colleagues at the end of the Spring term.

James Rouke, Lead Practitioner for Sports and Activities has been at William Ellis for over 15 years and will be missed by both the boys and his colleagues alike. Apart from leading the PE Department, he has been instrumental in developing outdoor activities at the school. James will be setting up his own Sports business in Hertfordshire where he lives, thereby cutting out many miles of travelling to work every day and be able to spend some quality time with his young son Finn who is in poor health.

Richard Whitenstall has been the Exams Officer at William Ellis for three years and has efficiently overhauled the exam systems in school which will mean a smooth handover to his successor. In addition, Richard was the elected staff governor on the governing body and his input has been appreciated. Richard will be moving to Winchester to work in local government.

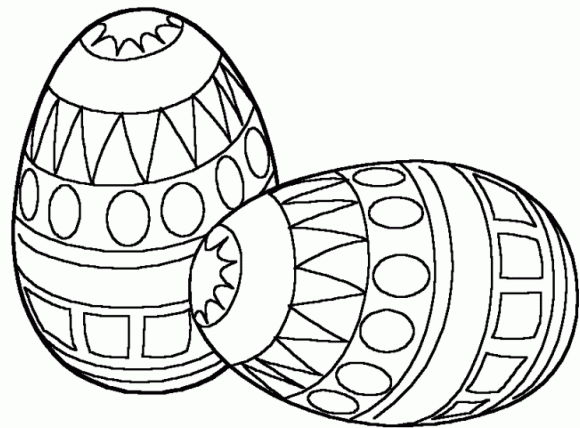


Message for Parents from School Office

Although attendance improved last year, a significant number of boys are arriving late to school, which causes a great deal of disruption to the start of the school day.



A reminder that boys should be in school at 8.30am for 8.35am registration. The school is aware that there are often transport disruptions but this should be factored into the time allowed for their journey to school. It is important that students practise good timekeeping which they will not only need when they enter the world of work but if they ever aim to catch a flight!



Very best wishes for a restful Easter break.

Boys should return on Wednesday 24th April at the usual time.