



WILLIAM ELLIS SCHOOL
HIGHGATE ROAD
LONDON
NW5 1RN

HEADTEACHER: MR SAM WHITE

TEL: 020 7267 9346

FAX: 020 7284 1274

info@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

Thursday 19th September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Climate Change Protest on Friday 20th September 2019

You may be aware that tomorrow, Friday 20th September there are climate change protests taking place during the day in London and across the UK. Young people have been encouraged to 'walk out' of schools to join the protests. The protest tomorrow is part of an ongoing campaign that started in February 2019. The publicised plan is for students to 'walk out' of school in order to demand action from government.

The right to protest peacefully is embodied in British law. We encourage our students to be active responsible global citizens who engage with our democratic processes. Climate change is a serious issue where action is needed at local, national and international level and many of our students have strong views about this.

While we are pleased that young people are engaged with this issue and feel it is important to speak out about climate change, we also feel that protests encouraging young people to leave school unsupervised may put young people at risk. This is an unsupervised walkout from school. We have been advised that there are risks for young people taking part and being in central London. It is anticipated that there will be limited, if any, marshalling, as well as potential overcrowding on public transport to and from the event. The protests will assemble in Millbank at 11am and then they are likely to proceed to Parliament Square, which can become quickly crowded. Tensions can quickly escalate and initially peaceful protests can end up resulting in police action to restore law and order.

We would encourage you to discuss the issues with your son and to stress the importance of attending school on Friday. We appreciate that there may be parents/carers who support their son attending this protest and in this case we ask that you provide **written authorisation** for him to be permitted to leave the school site. **We will not accept authorisation by telephone.**

Like other schools, we are unable to authorise absence under these circumstances. If a student does make the decision to leave the school site, they will be marked as having an unauthorised absence. Students cannot be released without parental permission and will be asked to remain on site once registered in the morning. We will not physically stop students leaving the school site.

Yours sincerely,

Mr White
Headteacher