



WILLIAM ELLIS SCHOOL
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Dear students, parents and carers,

I am writing to let you know that, after nine years as the head teacher of William Ellis School, I will be standing down at the end of the academic year. This has not been an easy decision to reach but I believe the time is right and the school is in a good place to take on the challenges of the future. Being a headteacher is one of the most rewarding and stimulating jobs there is, but it is one which requires huge commitment and drive. Nine years of running a wonderful challenging school is demanding and I feel William Ellis needs someone who has the sort of energy I had ten years ago for the next decade.

William Ellis is an exceptional place; it offers something distinct and special within the Camden family of schools. The students are fabulous, and I shall miss them terribly. The school enjoys great support from parents and carers and WESPA, our parent association, and I would like to thank you all for this.

The school has capable, loyal and hard-working governors and trustees who I have been honoured to report to. Even before I made the decision to step down, we had been working closely on succession planning at all levels in the school, including the governing body. It is an absolute priority that the transition to new school leadership is as smooth as possible. A letter from Fiona Millar, Chair of Governors, about the way forward is attached to this letter. I have every confidence in the governors' plans.

There is great capacity within the school which is served by a dedicated team of professionals and leaders who are, at all levels, committed to our ethos and values. This means that my departure will be more significant for me than for the school.

The school also benefits from being a member of LaSWAP which is a unique model of collaboration that brings enormous benefits to students and the four schools involved. I have personally benefited from the close working relationship with my fellow LaSWAP head teachers. It has also been a privilege to work as a head within the London Borough of Camden, which spearheads excellent support for the care and education of young people and is committed to a fully inclusive approach to education.

The next few months will be busy ones for the school. I look forward to working with staff, the governors and the local authority to ensure that everything possible is done to ensure a seamless transition so that the school is in the best place to continue to thrive and to make the most of the opportunities that lie ahead.

I shall be very sad to leave and remain deeply committed to all that William Ellis stands for. I am resigning as headteacher but remaining in education and hope to keep a strong association with the school.

My very best wishes,

Sam White

Headteacher