



WILLIAM ELLIS SCHOOL  
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HEADTEACHER: MR SAM WHITE

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Dear parent or carer,

I am writing to let you know about the governors' plans following Sam White's resignation as head teacher. It was with great regret that we accepted Mr White's resignation, although we fully understand the reasons why he feels it is time to step down.

It is almost ten years since we appointed Sam White as head teacher. In that time, he has been a powerful role model for staff and students, always leading with humanity and dignity, which in the current highly competitive and at times challenging world of state education, isn't always easy.

He has worked tirelessly to secure the school's reputation and build a committed team around him to ensure that the spirit and ethos of the founder continues to imbue everything we do. We feel confident that he is leaving the school in good shape for the future.

He will leave big shoes to fill and we don't underestimate the gap his departure will create. With that in mind, governors have been thinking hard about how we maintain stability for all students, staff, parents and carers while continuing our current school improvement work and ensuring we take the time and care to appoint the best possible candidate as our next head teacher.

We have decided that, in order to give ourselves enough time to do this effectively, we will be putting in place an interim arrangement for the new school year 2020-21, during which we will start the recruitment of a new head.

Our current deputy head, Izzy Jones, will be stepping up as acting head teacher, with the support of Sue Higgins, former headteacher of Parliament Hill School as head consultant. As many of you will know, Sue Higgins is an experienced and accomplished leader who appointed and worked with Izzy Jones for ten years at Parliament Hill.

Since her retirement Ms Higgins has been a school improvement partner to several schools around the country, including another London boys' school and has recently been working with our English Department. We believe her existing strong relationship with Ms Jones, her close knowledge and understanding of our school and her previous work across the La Swap consortium, will enable this new partnership to take effect very swiftly.

The governors have held extensive discussions with Sue Higgins, Izzy Jones and Sam White about how these arrangements will work in practice and we will continue working with them in the summer term to put in place detailed plans for the start of the new school year. During that period, we will be arranging a parents' meeting so you can meet them all and ask any questions you may have about the interim arrangements.

I know that some of you will feel disappointment, possibly concern, about the change of leadership at the school, especially at a time when we know schools across the country are facing huge challenges. But I want to reassure everyone that the success and well-being of the school community remains our top priority.

We are very lucky to be part of a strong family of local schools with a supportive and engaged local authority in Camden, whose continued support we value hugely. In spite of our sadness at losing Mr White, we feel sure that this period will help us to develop a robust plan for the next exciting and productive phase in William Ellis School's long and unique history.

With very best wishes

FIONA MILLAR  
Chair of Governors