



NEWSLETTER

27th April 2020

Years 9 and 10

Welcome back Year 9 and Year 10,

I really do hope that you managed to enjoy a bit of time off from your online studies and that you were all able to appreciate some of the good weather that we had. Remember, we are still allowed to go out for a little exercise every day, so do try and regularly get some fresh air!

The Year 9 and 10 team of tutors and other staff members will continue to call you all. We are keeping in touch online and check on each other's wellbeing and yours. Remember when you receive a call, please do let the staff member know if you are struggling with anything – remember, the reason that we are doing this is we want to make sure we can help resolve your problems at this difficult time.

You should receive the hard copy of your Summer Term 1 work pack in the next few days. Remember these are also in your class TEAM in the class materials section as a PDF or a Word document. If, for some reason you have not yet received your copy in the post by the end of Thursday, 30th April please email admin@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

You can fill these in on the hard copy or alternatively you can fill in the word document. Either upload a picture of the hard copy or upload the relevant pages on the Word document each time you finish an assignment. Please make sure that you try to stick to the deadlines given by your teachers. This will help with your daily routine. As difficult as these circumstances currently are, you need to remain focused on your studies to make sure that you are fully prepared for your return, and your exams in 2021. The work that you are being set is not optional, and we have a duty to make sure that you are ready for your GCSEs by setting the work and expecting it to be done.

WES has a small number of laptops available for students' use. Some have already been distributed to Year 9 and 10 students in order for them to be able to access schoolwork more easily, where students do not have a computer to use at home. We also have a small stock of basic stationery resources, pens, pencils, exercise books etc. Please contact us if you feel that you need to access either of these.

I would love to congratulate Year 10 on a wholly successful collection of Home Learning Work Packs last Thursday. It was wonderful to see so many of you. The weather was glorious, and Year 10 were wonderfully co-operative and respectful:





WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP YOURSELF?

Continue to READ and learn!

"Books are the most quiet and lasting friends, the easiest to reach, the wisest counsellors and the most patient teachers." *Charles W. Eliot*

Whatever you chose to read, books are a great way to pass you time productively and to learn. Advantages of reading include:

10 advantages of reading:

- **Reading** reduces stress. When we **read**, we are still. ...
- **Reading** help us build a better vocabulary. ...
- **Reading** stimulates imagination. ...
- **Reading** lights up new ideas. ...
- **Reading** improves focus and concentration. ...
- **Reading** improves your memory. ...
- **Reading** improves our language skills. ...
- **Reading** gives us new knowledge.

What ever you chose to read.....enjoy!

Be creative

Think about creativity at home lead me to an article I recently read....

For ideas on how to keep creative during this lockdown period have a look:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/24/how-do-teenagers-live-in-quarantine-photo-essay>

Maybe you could also start a photo journal?

Be active

Lockdown has forced me to rediscover my love of riding and walking not to mention hours and hours in the garden planting anything from courgettes to gooseberries. But many activities can be performed within the confines of your house - the important thing is to stay active!

It's so good for the body and mind!

Careers News:

Mrs Diana Lane writes:

I hope you are all safe and well and coping with your new situation. I'd be very pleased if you could fill in a short survey for me. It will only take five minutes.

Stay safe

Year 9- <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FKLCS6P>

Year 10- <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FQ3C36F>

Mr Parry writes:

Despite the current state of affairs, there are opportunities opening up all the time. Here is an example of a 'virtual' work experience opportunities for Year 10s.

- Here's a platform for virtual work experience in Construction for Year 10 students. The scheme starts on the 18th May 2020 and will run for 5 full days - and there are no limits on how many schools, classes or pupils that can take part!

<https://www.scapegroup.co.uk/learning-in-lockdown>

We continue to work with We.org who also offer opportunities for both Year groups:

[file:///C:/Users/Admin/Downloads/WE_Schools_Daily_Challenges_27_April_2020%20\(4\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Admin/Downloads/WE_Schools_Daily_Challenges_27_April_2020%20(4).pdf)

OVER TO YOU?

Remember to create a schedule. Here is one as an example below, it's for a school day but you could adapt it for the holidays.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Get up! Shower and get dressed.				
	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
	Indoor physical activity				
	Lesson 1				
	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
	Lesson 2				
	Break/Lunch	Break/Lunch	Break/Lunch	Break/Lunch	Break/Lunch
	Lesson 3				
	Daily outdoor exercise				
	Music/games/gaming	Music/games/gaming	Music/games/gaming	Music/games/gaming	Music/games/gaming
	Help around the home				
	Read	Read	Read	Read	Read
	Dinner time				
	Music/TV/games	Music/TV/games	Music/TV/games	Music/TV/games	Music/TV/games
	Bedtime without phone or screens				

There are two letters from Mr White and from Mr Lane at the end of this newsletter. Please do read them.

PLEASE KEEP LOOKING AT THE WES WEBSITE FOR UPDATES...

Any questions not answered on the website? Send me an email.

parry@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

Stay safe

HGPARRY



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April 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

SUMMER 1 – LEARNING PLANS AND RESOURCES

As described in my letter emailed on Monday 20th April, please find enclosed in this envelope learning plans and resources to cover the first half of the summer term. These packs are being sent to every student. We do not know yet when and how schools will be reopening but we think it is useful to have a plan for home learning to cover the next half term. We will continue to use Teams on Office 365 as the main tool for learning however, we know that some students are having difficulty accessing these resources and some resources are more easily used on paper than on screen.

Contained in the pack are learning plans for every subject. These learning plans provide an overview of and structure for the learning for each subject up until the end of May. They state what assignments need to be completed every week to support this learning. Alongside these learning plans there are paper-based resources to support this learning, these resources are closely linked to the work on Teams.

If your son has an identified special educational need there should be an additional letter in this pack from Mr Glover, Head of Additional Needs, which contains some guidance and his contact details.

Before the Easter break you should have had a couple of telephone calls from staff. The purpose of these calls is to maintain the home school relationship, to check on student and family well-being and to support student home learning. We plan to continue these checking in and support telephone calls through the next half term. As I hope has been discussed in these calls, we suggest that 3 hours of quality work a day is a realistic expectation in relation to the completion of specific work set by teachers. Outside of these hours, boys should be encouraged to exercise, help with tasks around the home and to read.

My very best wishes to you. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you think we can be of support.

Yours faithfully,

Sam White
Headteacher



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21st April 2020

Dear students,

Welcome to a new, but very unusual, start to term. It is 4 weeks since the changes to school were implemented and I appreciate many of you will have had different experiences in this time. Adapting to change is difficult at any time, it is especially difficult when it happens so rapidly and with little preparation time. I expect most students, staff and parents will have experienced a mix of emotions in dealing with our new world ranging from curiosity and interest, through to confusion and disbelief as well as boredom, sadness, loneliness, frustration and fear. These emotions are perfectly normal. It is important that we do recognise these feelings when they arise, and it can be helpful to talk to people about them. This may be more difficult with the current limitations on our movements as the normal channels of communication have changed. I want you to know there is support available for you. I have outlined three channels of support below.

1) School staff

You will be contacted by a member of staff once per week. For some students this will be your tutor, but it may be another member of staff. This is a good opportunity to discuss your feelings with an adult from school and I encourage you to have that conversation. Although it may feel a bit strange at first, I want you to know the staff care about you a lot and want the best for you. You are important to us and we want to support you. Staff will be respectful of your feelings and are there to listen to you. These conversations also help the staff - they are missing school and speaking to students as well.

If you would like to particularly speak to your tutor, please send an email or message via teams and they will contact you by phone as soon as they are able to. (Some staff will also be caring for their own children or family members so they may not be able to respond quickly)

2) Online

If you would prefer to use online support from somebody outside the school the following websites have been recommended by staff at Camden Local Authority.

Childline www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/

Kooth www.kooth.com

Offers safe and anonymous online support for young people

Anna Freud www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind/self-care/

Provides resources around self-care for both children and families

Young Minds www.youngminds.org.uk

General information for young people about managing their mental health

Stop, Breathe and Think www.stopbreathethink.com/kids/

Phone, tablet or web app to support mindfulness

3) Stay Safe

I have often spoken to you about staying safe both physically and emotionally. This is as important now as it is in 'normal' school. If you are concerned about your own safety or the safety of a family member, neighbour or friend you can phone me on 07887 751407 and we can discuss how best to deal with the situation.

Take care and stay safe.

Mr Lane