



NEWSLETTER

11th May 2020

Years 7 and 8

Hello, Year 7 and Year 8,

I hope that you are well.

There is a suggested timetable at the bottom of this newsletter if you need help with creating a timetable. I have added in time for exercise and leisure. Remember we are now allowed to go out for exercise, more than once, every day, so do try and regularly get some fresh air!

The Year 7 and 8 team of tutors and other staff members will continue to call you all. Remember when you receive a call, please do let the staff member know if you are struggling with anything – 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 now have received the hard copy of your Summer Term 1 work booklet. 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 one, 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. It is obviously better if you are doing the assignments when they are set rather than leave them all to do later. It also helps with your daily routine.

We have been delivering laptops to some families. We are currently prioritising students in years 10 and 12 but **we will have a small number available for Year 7 and 8 boys as well.** 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.**

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP YOURSELF?

Continue to READ and learn!

As you are aware from previous letters, I am reading a lot and I think that you should be too. It really does help you relax, gets your imagination going and you can learn so much!

The most recent chapter from my historical book is on warfare, specifically naval warfare.

Victors of battle at sea were deprived of one advantage enjoyed by victors on land: it was rare to hold prisoners for ransom. The Shipman certainly never did...

*Of nice conscience took he no keep
If that he fought and had the higher hand,
By water he sent them home to every land*

...he just threw his prisoners overboard!

The king of France was taken prisoner by the English after the battle of Poitiers who demanded 3 million écus, only half was ever paid since he died in captivity.

Here is a link to our website with information about the FREE CAMDEN LIBRARY.

<https://www.williamellis.camden.sch.uk/page/?title=Free+ebooks+from+Camden+Libraries&pid=1288&action=saved>

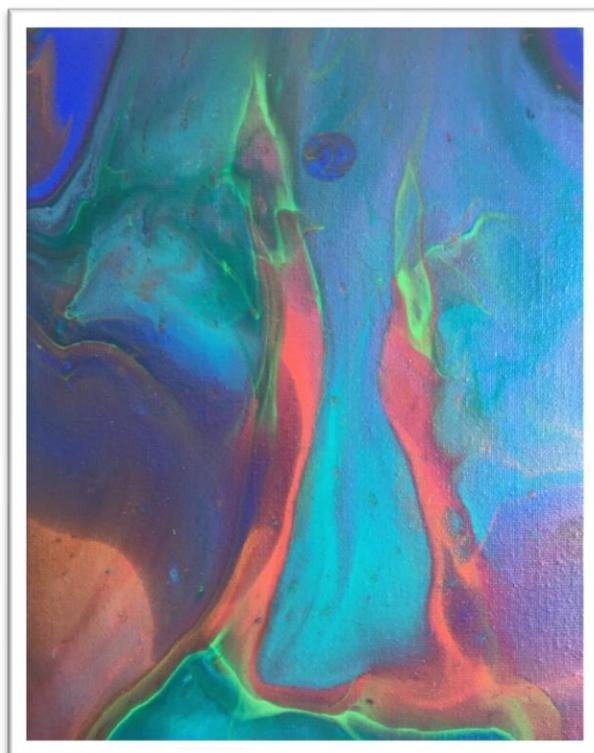
Be creative

Make sure that you check your Form TEAM as all your form tutors will have set you an assignment. We've had Origami, if you haven't tried it yet please do so, it's great fun.

For the next few weeks we have a Happiness Project that will be assigned to your Tutor TEAM so please do go on and have a look.

Ms Brown, my wife, has been continuing to paint, she's trying out a new method called 'acrylic pouring'.

Here is her first attempt...



Take comfort in the world outside

Whilst clearing out some blanket weed from our pond, I noticed one of these...



I suspected that it was a Damselfly Nymph, checked online and sure enough, I was right! (and very pleased with myself).

The following day I noticed a Damselfly on one of our pond plants! Maybe it was the mother...



not a great picture I'm afraid.

I continue to be amazed at the amount of wildlife that is attracted to our garden, all because of this little pond.

Please do try and enjoy the natural world as much as you can, even if you don't have a garden. When you go for your daily outdoor exercise, see how what wildlife you can identify and look it up online.

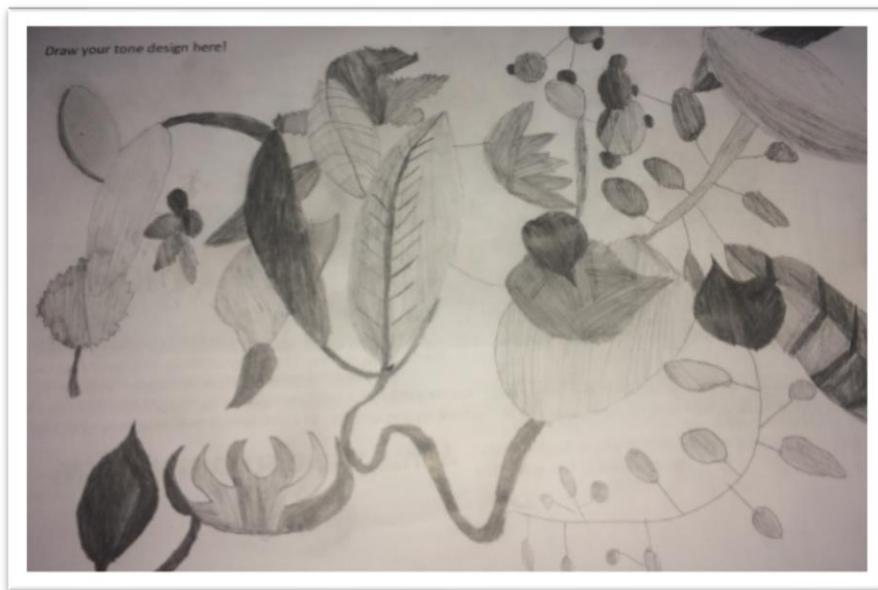
Be active

We all are continuing to stay active here in the Altmann/Brown residence and we are going to take advantage of the new government advice and get out a couple of times a day to do exercise.

Please do stay active, it's so good for the body and mind!

OVER TO YOU?

We will be sending out something like this every week – but want to include some stuff from you, too. So, let us know what is helping you out, or what you would like to celebrate.



Some of Rehan Miah's (8B) fantastic artwork!

Here is an interesting link sent to me by a parent. It's an animation activity that you may wish to try out.

<https://www.screenskills.com/careers/careers-resources/animation-lessons/>

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
7:30	Get up! Shower and get dressed.				
8:30	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
9:00	Indoor physical activity				
9:30	Lesson 1				
10.30	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
11:00	Lesson 2				
12:00	Break/Lunch	Break/Lunch	Break/Lunch	Break/Lunch	Break/Lunch
13:00	Lesson 3				
14:00	Daily outdoor exercise				
15:00	Music/games/gaming	Music/games/gaming	Music/games/gaming	Music/games/gaming	Music/games/gaming
16:00	Help around the home				
17:00	Read	Read	Read	Read	Read
18:00	Dinner time				
19:00	Music/TV/games	Music/TV/games	Music/TV/games	Music/TV/games	Music/TV/games
21:00	Bedtime without phone or screens				

I'm re-sending copies of letters from Mr White and from Mr Lane at the end of this newsletter that went out recently. Please do read them.

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

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

altmann@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

Stay safe

Mr Altmann



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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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Dear students,

21st April 2020

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